FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

18 MAY 1983

Lebanon

Syrian Position — Syria has decided not to receive presidential envoy Philip Habib "because there is nothing to discuss with him and because he is one of the U.S. politicians most hostile to the Arabs," a Syrian spokesman announced on 18 May in a statement carried by SANA. Earlier, an "authoritative" Syrian source cited by AFP said Syria will refuse to withdraw its forces from Lebanon, "even at the request of the Lebanese Government," and sees no purpose in meeting with the Lebanese working group formed recently to step up contacts with Syria. Noting that Syria has postponed until 19 May an official press conference announcing measures against Lebanon in response to the signing of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, Radio Monte Carlo said observers in Damascus believe the door for a Syrian-Lebanese dialogue has not yet been closed.

Senior Syrian military officials cited by the radio "categorically and strongly" denied reports that the Syrian Army in Lebanon has cut all roads from the territory under its control to Beirut and has also severed telephone and telex connections with the capital. AFP and Jerusalem radio reported earlier that the Syrians had barred the highways from Beirut to Damascus and Tripoli.

Meanwhile, Syrian media criticized the Lebanese Government with increasing vehemence: A 17 May Damascus radio commentary said those who signed the agreement represent a minority group which "cooperated with the Israeli invasion in order to secure a dominant influence in Lebanon." An 18 May TISHRIN editorial reviewed by the radio said Syria "has the means" to undermine the agreement, which was "prepared and approved by Phalangist institutions created by the occupation."

Al-Jumayyil Remarks — The agreement with Israel is "not an end in itself" and what is important is its implementation and the withdrawal of all foreign armies from Lebanon, President Amin al-Jumayyil declared in remarks reported by Beirut radio. According to Voice of Lebanon radio, Al-Jumayyil also expressed hope that contacts with Syria will produce "quick results."

Israeli Position — Following the signing of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement, Israel and the United States signed a memorandum of understanding confirming that Israel will not withdraw from Lebanon unless the Syrians and PLO withdraw simultaneously and that the agreement is "closed" and cannot be subject to further deliberations, Jerusalem radio reported. Earlier, delegation leader David Kimche said Israel has been promised that international pressure will now be applied to Syria to make it accept the agreement, according to the radio. Defense Minister Moshe Arens predicted that several weeks will elapse before the question of a Syrian withdrawal is clarified, admitting that Israel is unable to read the Syrian president's intentions. Speaking in an IDF Radio interview, Arens warned the Syrians "not to entertain any illusions"that they will be easily able to harass the IDF in Lebanon. He said Israel will dictate the scope of any fighting started by the Syrians. If it becomes clear the Syrians will not withdraw, Israel will consult with the Lebanese and Americans on the possibility of deploying Lebanese and multinational forces in areas evacuated by the IDF, he affirmed.

Arab Reaction to Agreement — Libya responded to the signing of the agreement of "shame and humiliation" by withdrawing its People's Bureau secretary from Lebanon and asking the Lebanese ambassador to leave the Jamahiriyah, JANA reported. Meanwhile, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali welcomed the agreement and said more than one formula could be devised to guarantee Syria's interests in Lebanon, "which must be taken into consideration," MENA reported citing an AL-AKHBAR interview with Ghali.

While Saudi Arabia respects the free will of the Lebanese people, the Kingdom is extremely anxious to affirm the need for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon "with the full guarantee of Lebanon's independence, Arab character, security, and stability," according to a statement issued by the Saudi information minister and broadcast by Riyadh radio. It called on the Arabs to pay "extreme attention" to relations between Syria and Lebanon in order to preserve fraternity and solidarity between the two countries. Saudi Arabia is seeking a "clearer and more positive attitude" from the United States toward Palestinian rights, and this must involve "serious pressure" on Israel to force it to withdraw from all the Arab territories occupied in 1967, the statement concluded.

In a similar vein an Algerian Foreign Ministry statement on the agreement broadcast by Algiers radio reaffirmed Algeria's firm support for Lebanon's territorial integrity and national unity but also warned that there can be no solution to the Middle East crisis without fulfilling Palestinian rights.

Beirut Protest — One person was killed and several others were injured in violent clashes in southern Beirut between security forces and demonstrators protesting the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, the clandestine Voice of Arab Lebanon radio reported.

Iran

An Algerian Government delegation led by Prime Minister Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani arrived in Tehran for a visit, IRNA reported. The purpose of the visit, according to Abdelghani, is to further expand economic and political ties between the two countries. During talks with the delegation, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani suggested that Algeria, Iran, and "those few countries whose political positions are close and who can hope to cooperate with one another" embark on a joint venture to draw up a "serious" plan and form a joint commission in order to bring about the liberation of Palestine, according to Tehran radio.

In another development Iran and Japan agreed to resume work on the long-stalled petrochemical complex at Bandar-e Khomeyni despite earlier Iraqi threats to attack the complex if work resumes, IRNA and KYODO reported. Iran will provide the necessary capital to complete the project and Japan will supply the technical experts required for the work.

Shipping Talks With USSR — Iran dispatched a delegation to the Soviet Union to attend the 14th session of talks on bilateral shipping, IRNA reported. The Iranian position on shipping in and further utilization of the Caspian Sea will be the subject of the talks.

PLO

Palestinian circles in Damascus believe that the dissension within Fatah ranks is still serious and could get worse, the Ash-Shariqah daily AL-KHALIJ reported citing well-informed Palestinian sources. PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat "categorically rejected" the nine demands put forth by the dissidents which included calls for the rescission of recent military decisions aimed at removing "a particular group" and the dismissal of a military commander accused of negligence during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. The dissidents continue to insist on their demands, the paper added.

Jordan

In order to counter the recently "escalating" pace of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, the Jordanian Ministry of Interior issued an order restricting travel from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a statement broadcast by Amman television said. The order stipulates that people will be allowed to leave the West Bank only across two designated bridges and that movement from the West Bank to the east will be prohibited if the pass issued by the occupation authorities prevents the free return of the traveler.

Afghanistan

The Soviet Union has increased the number of its troops in western Afghanistan, BBC World Service reported citing Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad. Fresh forces brought in directly from the USSR have been used to strengthen the garrison at Herat in order to reassert Soviet control over the area in view of strong insurgent activity in recent months, the report said.

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San'a' VOP: Military Council Meets in Damascus

GF171800 San'a' Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] The Supreme Military Council of the Palestinian revolution forces held an extraordinary meeting in Damascus yesterday afternoon under the chairmanship of Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander of the Palestinian revolution forces.

A responsible Palestianian source said that the council discussed the general military situation, particularly in view of the Zionist developments and threats against the PLO and Syria. The source said in his statement that the conferees also discussed and reviewed in full the position of the Palestinian forces and their fighting readiness in the face of these possibilities and adopted a number of decisions in this regard.

'Arafat Continues Inspections in Al-Biqa'

JN171630 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Brother Abu 'Ammar, PLO Executive Committee chairman and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, has, for the 3d day running, inspected the Palestinian forces' positions in the Al-Biqa' valley.

Our correspondent has learned that brother leader Abu 'Ammar met with the Palestinian revolution's officers and fighters and outlined an analysis of the current situation in the region in light of recent developments.

QNA Report on Visit

GF172026 Doha QNA in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Damascus, 17 May (QNA) — Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, left Damascus for the Lebanese Al-Biqa' today on his fourth visit to the region since the beginning of the week. Mr 'Arafat is accompanied by Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), deputy commander of the Palestinian forces; Brigadier GeneralAbu al-Mu'tasim, deputy chief of staff of the revolution forces; and a number of senior officers and Palestinian leaders.

Responsible Palestinian sources in the Syrian capital described this visit as the most important one made to Al-Biqa' by Mr 'Arafat because it comes following the extraordinary meeting held by the Supreme Military Council of the Palestinian revolution here today.

The visit is aimed at determining the extent of the combat readiness of the Palestinian forces in Al-Biqa' and their ability to deter any Israeli aggression against the Palestinian revolution forces and against Syrian forces.

Kuwaiti Daily: More PLO Forces Join Abu Musa

GF171416 Kuwait AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 16 May 83 p 1

[Text] Well-informed sources have told AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Damascus that the battalion of Al-'Arqub hawks joined Colonel Abu Musa yesterday together with the air defense company (Abu Majdi).

The sources added that Abu 'Ammar met with a number of popular unions and bodies yesterday evening and explained the situation to them while stressing his appreciation for Abu Musa's stand and the stands of a number of Palestinian leaders who played a big and brave role during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon.

AL-KHALIJ on Dissidents' Demands

GF171420 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 17 May 83 pp 1, 14

[Article by AL-KHALIJ Correspondent in Damascus Jum'ah al-Lami]

[Text] Palestinian circles in Damascus believe that the only progress achieved in resolving the crisis within Fatah is the anxiousness of the various parties to stress the reliance on dialogue as a way out. These circles believe that the situation is still serious and could get worse.

Well-informed Palestinian sources have said that Yasir 'Arafat categorically rejected the nine demands of the mutineering group of Qadri [Samih Kuwayk], Abu Musa, and Abu Salih [Nimr Salih]. The group continues to insist on their demands, the most important of which are:

1. To rescind recent military decisions and all other organizational decisions aimed at removing a particular group.

2. Announce the dismissal of Abu Hajim and all those responsible for negligence during the recent Lebanese war and investigate their actions.

3. Adopt a clear decision on opposing the U.S.-Zionist plan represented by the Reagan plan and rejecting the Fes plan and the confederation [with Jordan] plan.

4. Make a clear declaration on holding on to Al-Biqa' and northern Lebanon and opposing the Lebanese-Israeli-U.S. settlement.

5. Make a clear declaration on standing seriously in the "Arab national front confronting the U.S. plan in our region and stressing the alliance with the socialist countries."

Well-informed Palestinian soruces have said that the mediation committees which went to Al-Biqa' did not achieve anything tangible. Three committees from Fatah which had met with Abu Musa in Al-Biqa' and contacted Qadri had begun their work 5 days ago in an attempt to resolve the current crisis.

The sources said that the number of commanders and forces that support Abu Musa's leadership is not insignificant. The commanders include Colonel Ziyad as-Saghir, alias Abu Hazim, Colonel Abu Majdi, Major Abu Ra'd, and a number of officers.

Yesterday the PFLP intervened in the dispute directly. PFLP fighters opened "gaps" between the forces of the two disputing parties to prevent friction that could lead to a clash or an exchange of fire.

The PFLP move followed the action by a number of small factions that are known for their support for the Qadri-Abu Musa-Abu Salih group.

In a statement to AL-KHALIJ, a senior PFLP official said: Our action has a clear and frank basis, namely our great concern for the unity of Fatah and our anxiousness that it remains the mother faction that express national unity.

The PFLP official said he believed that everyone is anxious to resolve the current crisis through dialogue.

'Arafat has inspected the Palestinian forces in Al-Biqa' and northern Lebanon for the third successive day. WAFA reported that Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the forces of the Palestinian revolution, and Brigadier General Ahmad 'Affanah (Abu al-Mu'tasim), deputy chief of staff, and a number of commanders of the forces of the Palestinian revolution, accompanied 'Arafat during the visit.

During his inspection of the Badr and Al-Yarmuk forces and the 17 forces — these are units that are assigned special tasks — 'Arafat was briefed by the unit commanders on the preparations and training programs of these forces. 'Arafat explained to the fighters the situation in the area in light of current developments.

Tripoli: More Join Fatah 'Revolutionary Movement'

LD171659 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Major Yahya al-Hasan, who is responsible for Fatah Palestinian military security in Lebanon, has announced his refusal to receive any orders from Yasir 'Arafat and his aides. He announced that he has joined the Fatah revolutionary movement in Al-Biqa' valley. The Kuwaiti paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM reported today that Yahya al-Hasan rejected orders received from so-called Abu Jihad, Khalil al-Wazir, to capture one of the bases controlled by the revolutionary factions of Fatah movement in Al-Biqa' valley. The paper stated that Maj Yahya al-Hasan cabled a reply to Abu Jihad in which he said: I do not receive orders from you, and I have decided to join Colonel Abu Musa ['Abd al-Latif Jibarah] and his comrades-in-arms.

Reports that arrived from Al-Biqa' yesterday mentioned that the Palestinian revolutionary movement headed by Abu Salih [Nimr Salih] and Abu Musa captured a weapons depot in the Al-Ham region of Al-Biqa'. The reportes explained that Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] deputized one of the officers, Yahya al-Hasan, to lead a detachment to recapture the depot; however, this attempt failed.

Reports confirm that Muhammad Abu Mayzar and his group have joined the movement, as has the central intelligence organization of Al-Biqa'. Palestinians in Bulgaria and Moscow have announced that they have joined the new movement. They called on Palestinians in other areas to join the new revolutionary movement. Moreover, Fatah women's organizations have announced their joining the movement.

On the other hand, Abu Salih has continued to reject mediation of any sort, including that which the rightwing groups of Fatah are trying to arrange. He stressed the need to have the situation settled by holding a conference for the Fatah movement on the condition that an emergency committee is set up at the Fatah Central Committee and a freeze is placed on the activities of all those who have met Zionists, such as Abu 'Ammar, Abu Iyad [Salah Khalaf], Abu Jasim, and Khalid al-Hasan.

PLO Radio Attacks Move To Form W. Bank Front

JN161837 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 May 83

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Our kinfolk in the occupied homeland: After every Zionist failure to uproot the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of our Palestinian people and after all the battles from which the PLO emerged stronger and more determined, the Zionist enemy leaders still seek new alternatives that might rival the PLO or seek a leader to the Palestinian people who will allow himself to be commanded by the enemy and used to implement its objectives and to undermine our Palestinian people's aspirations for liberation and the establishment of their own independent state.

We all recall, kinfolk, the game of the fake alternatives the enemy tried to peddle but failed. The enemy leaders sometimes try to polish up certain agents and appoint them as notables so they can carry out the enemy's wishes. Sometimes, the enemy tries to impose groups of depraved, discarded persons on our people so they can speak their behalf. We recall in this regard the agent Village Leagues, which became an instrument for the Zionist enemy, but our Palestinian people fought these leagues and dropped them from all calculations. These leagues are now dying and helpless Zionist toys, thanks to our people's move, which rejects and resists the Zionist occupation and its agents.

After the enemy leaders failed to implant these agent pillars, the Village Leagues, they resorted to a new method, hoping that it would make up for their failure and fulfill the objectives of striking at the PLO inside the occupied territories. The enemy leaders instructed some of their agents to form certain alliances or gatherings colored with a popular name, believing that this publicity measure or choice of names would help to peddle the plan of the new leagues called the Popular Alliance.

Our kinfolk in the occupied homeland, the PLO is every single man, woman, child, and elderly person among our Palestinian people, inside and outside the occupied land. The PLO is the continued uprising in the occupied land. It is the fighting heroes in Al-Biqa' and Lebanon. It is those who are still receiving training in the Arab and friendly states. The PLO, which won the recognition of the Arab and friendly states after it was consecrated by our people as their sole legitimate representative, is the entire people and the people are the PLO.

The PLO's exclusive representation of the Palestinian people has never been and will never be a subject of dispute, in either the Palestinian or Arab arenas. This is a final truth which will last until our people completely achieve their national rights.

Our kinfolk in occupied homeland, new alliances among some groups are a Zionist-U.S. attempt aimed solely at depriving the Palestinian people of their present political expression, the PLO, and then destroy their aspirations to restore their land and establish their own independent state. These suspicious calls and alliances also aim at returning the Palestinian cause to the prerevolution era when it was merely a false gown worn by many persons.

Our kinfolk, let us fight these alliances and new leagues. Let us resist these alliances in the same manner that we resist the occupation and its agents. Let us look at our struggle as the strongest truth in this region, as it has always been. Let us do all that by rallying around our sole legitimate representative, the PLO. Victory to our great people!

INA: ALF Statement Condemns Syrian, Libyan Regimes

JN152018 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1920 GMT 15 May 83

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 15 May (INA) — In a statement issued tonight on the 35th anniversary of the usurpation of Palestine, the ALF called on the PLO to reshape its alliances in the Arab region and to reject Reagan's capitulatory plan. It said that it is unacceptable for the PLO to continue to maintain relations with the Syrian regime despite this regime's full responsibility for fighting and weakening the Palestinian revolution.

It stressed that the Syrian regime, which has participated in the plot against the Palestinian people's revolution since its accession to power and its loss of the October war, is held responsible for what has happened to these people. It pointed out that any reconsideration of the PLO's relations should include the Libyan regime, which is currently executing Palestinian youths and which asked the PLO to commit suicide in Beirut.

The front said that the lessons learned from the battles of Lebanon and Beirut require the Palestinian revolution to return to its revolutionary originality and abstain from establishing alternative relations other than those with the Arab nation's masses, which offered Palestine all sacrifices and which call for avenging Palestine by continuing the struggle until victory.

Monte Carlo: DFLP's Hawatimah Sees War Imminent

JN171628 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], announced today that Washington wants to move the Lebanese-Israeli agreement forward by means of political pressure. He said: If that fails, the United States will again resort to the Israeli expansionist operations, which create all sorts of possibilities in north Lebanon and Al-Biqa', including the expansion of the circle of fire into Syrian territory.

Hawatimah concluded by saying: We must expect the worst and act as if the war will erupt tomorrow.

PFLP General Command Cables Al-Qadhdhafi

LD161708 Tripoli JANA in English 1620 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] Tripoli, Shaban 3 May 16, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Leaders and members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)-General Command in the Jamahiriyah condemned the criminal act against the leaders life which was plotted by the CIA and carried out by the Palestinian national, 'Abd al-Qadir Musa al-Khatib.

In a cable to the revolution's leader they strongly condemned U.S. terrorist attempts to disparage the Great Al-Fatih Revolution, the voice raised against all capitulatory settlements.

The cable said: "The assassination of the revolution's leader is tantamount to crushing the revolutionary, the revolution, Palestine and every free person struggling for the liberation of the Arab land".

Baghdad Voice of PLO on POW Exchange With Israel

JN171709 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Damascus —The PLO official spokesman has stated that the Palestinian resistance factions have notified the PLO Executive Committee of their agreement to put the Zionist POW's detained by these factions at the disposal of the PLO Executive Committee. He added that the PLO has officially informed the International Red Cross of this and of its radiness to release all eight POW's according to several conditions, which are: the release of all the Ansar camp detainees as well as all those detained during the Zionist invasion of Lebanon; the release of 1,250 detainees in enemy's prisons in the occupied territoires; the return of all the contents of the Palestinian Research Center in Beirut seized by the Zionist authorities; the Red Cross' obtaining the Zionist entity's approval of these conditions; and the Red Cross' officially notifying the PLO that it guarantees the rights of the released detainees who wish to stay in the occupied territories without prosecution by the occupation authorities for actions they carried out previously.

Concluding his statement, the PLO official spokesman said the PLO is still waiting for the Red Cross reply to these conditions.

AL-KHALIJ: Syria Returns Weapons to PLO

GF141258 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 14 May 83 p 1

[Text] Damascus — It has been learned from well-informed Palestinian sources that Syria has decided to hand over the weapons and military equipment which were destined to reach the Palestinian resistance through Syria during the Lebanon war.

The sources said that Syrian officials contacted the leaders of the Palestinian resistance and conveyed the Syrian decision.

An official of one of the Palestinian organizations has confirmed that his organization has received part of the weapons that were sent to it. An official of another Palestinian organization said: We have not received anything so far, although we have been informed of the Syrian decision.

Lebanese-Israeli Agreement: Cause of Arab Division

JN171830 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 May 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] The Lebanese-Israeli agreement is one of the most prominent and serious developments in the Arab region this year. According to what has been published by various sources of inforamtion, the most important provisions of this agreement are the following: termination of the state of war between Lebanon and Israel, the presence of an Israeli representation in Beirut, and joint patrols by regular Lebanese and Zionist units.

These three clauses, not to mention the other provisions, implicitly contain a clear official recognition by Lebanese Government of the Zionist entity. Though this constitutes a deviation from Arab unanimity and the Arab League Charter, it also directly harms Lebanon's security, independence, and Arab obligations, all of which the Lebanese Government put aside when it submitted to the Zionist pressures that created an agreement on the new occupation of Lebanon under which the Zionist enemy would obtain the gains included in the agreement.

On another level the Lebanese Government's approval of the agreement with Israel contradicts UN Security Council Resolutions 508 and 509, which call upon Israel to withdraw unconditionally from Lebanon.

Brothers: Though these are some of the aspects of the imbalance contained in the Zionist-Lebanese-U.S. agreement in the interest of Israel, what is even more serious is that some Arab countries are dealing in an ambiguous manner with this agreemnt. Some Arab information quarters equate the withdrawal of the Zionist forces from Lebanon with a Syrian and PLO withdrawal, forgetting that the Arab presence in Lebanon took place in accordance with agreements signed with the Lebanese authorities, not to mention the fact that this is an Arab presence blessed and accepted by the sons of the Lebanese people in the Arab nation's interests. The equation of the Syrian and Palestinian presence in Lebanon with the Zionist occupation is being made in some of the commentaries of certain Arab information media, while the United States is seeking to put pressure on the Arab countries to have them agree to the Lebanese-Zionist agreement, or at least to have them observe silence.

The continued silence observed by some Arab capitals will enable the U.S. Administration to impose more concessions on our Arab nation and pave the way for the Zionist enemy to detach Lebanon from its Arab environment. All this is taking place to find a gateway for the implementation of U.S. President Reagan's plan, which was rejected by the PLO and the Arab masses because it does not fulfill the aspirations of our Palestinian people for liberation and the establishment of their independent state.

The U.S. objective behind Shultz' tour, talks, and the scenario of the Lebanese-Zionist agreement is clear. It is to impose a U.S. peace on our Arab region, a peace that can mean only capitulation.

If this is Washington's wager, and if the wager of the Lebanese Government is that the agreement will be concluded and peddled to the Lebanese nationalists, then the Lebanese nationalist movement, the Palestinian revolution, and all the Arab forces which reject this Zionist-U.S.-Lebanese agreement have their choice too. It is the only choice to foil the new Camp David and to prevent U.S. imperialism and the Zionist enemy from imposing the age of concessions on our Arab nation. This choice is fighting, and fighting alone.

PLO's Al-Hut on Lebanese-Palestinian Relations

PM171440 Jidda 'UKAZ in Arabic 12 May 83 p 8

[Interview with Shafiq al-Hut, Director of the PLO Office in Lebanon, by Faysal Qawwas in Beirut — date not given]

[Excerpts] 'UKAZ: What is the position of the PLO in Lebanon under the present circumstances and what is the state of relations between the PLO, which you represent, and the Lebanese Government?

Al-Hut: To answer this question I must first explain, at least briefly, what you call the present circumstances in Lebanon. The present situation in Lebanon is complex and fraught with dangers and difficulties. As we all know, when the Israelis attacked Beirut they occupied the PLO office, but when they withdrew the office was taken over by Lebanese forces attached to the Lebanese Army. These forces are still there. I have appealed several times to the Lebanese Foreign Ministry to return the office to us so that it can resume its work. The office has many urgent tasks and responsibilities to the Palestinian masses.

Despite the urgent nature of this matter I still have not succeeded in getting back the PLO office in Beirut.

I personally have been and am still aware of the difficult circumstances of the Lebanese Government. I have frequently said so, and my brothers in the PLO leadership share my opinion that we must do our best to help the Lebanese Government bring about a withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon and restore full Lebanese sovereignty over all Lebanese territory.

However, in view of the Israeli procrastination and in view of the urgency of a matter where there is no more room for delay, I appeal to the Lebanese Government to reconsider its position regarding the PLO office, because the PLO is the legitimate representative officially recognized by the Arab States, and also because, despite all that has happened, relations between the Palestinian and Lebanese people are fraternal relations rooted in history, relations of common fate. I believe that the time has come for the Lebanese Government to declare its official position regarding the future of the PLO office in Lebanon.

I wish to add that, even if there were no PLO office in Lebanon, the Lebanese Government itself should see to it that such an office was set up. There are no less than 300,000 Palestinian civilians in Lebanon, and they must have an office to handle their affairs, to ensure through its contacts their protection and their security, and to provide them with the means to live in dignity and honor and to serve their second homeland, Lebanon, in any way they can.

'UKAZ: Is there anything to prevent your discharging your diplomatic duties as director of the PLO office in Beirut?

Al-Hut: Actually there is no declared position. It seems that the matter has been left pending the result of the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations. I refuse to believe that the Lebanese Government would let Israel blackmail it into preventing the PLO office from performing its duties as it did in the past.

'UKAZ: The Palestinian civilians are in the grip of a stifling social crisis. How will the PLO solve this problem?

Al-Hut: You call it a social crisis, but in fact it is deeper, wider, and more serious than that. It is a crisis of survival, to be or not to be in Lebanon. The official position of the Lebanese Government is one we have frequently heard. They assured us that the Palestinian civilians residing legally in Lebanon will have the same rights and duties as their Lebanese brothers. Circumstances brought them to Lebanon as brothers after their ordeal in 1948. I do not think the Lebanese Government will break this promise or rescind this decision, which, as I have said, we have repeatedly heard. However, under the prevailing serious, unsettled, shifting conditions in Lebanon, it seems that the Palestinians, although their armed forces have left Lebanon, are being used as a scapegoat by more than one side. Whenever the situation worsens for one reason or another there is always somebody to lay the blame on the Palestinians. This is despite the fact that the Palestinians are no longer armed or in a position to influence the course of events. It is no secret that the Palestinians are receiving threats in various parts of Lebanon. I am sure that Israel is behind this. It wants to keep the Palestinians in a state of constant fear.

'UKAZ: According to Palestinian circles, the Reagan plan for the Middle East cannot succeed without the PLO.

Al-Hut. I believe the Reagan plan failed the moment Begin announced his rejection of it. Let us not indulge in self-deception. Any political plan must first be acceptable to the parties concerned. We should always remember that Israel was the first to reject the Reagan plan. I say that because the PLO should not get all the blame and also as a matter of principle. On the other hand, we must also remember that the Reagan plan does not meet the minimum requirements for approval by the Palestinian people or the PLO. The strange thing about the Reagan plan is that it denies the Palestinian people their right to self-determination, which is a God-given right that no power on earth can take away from any people.

I really find it very strange that President Reagan dared face his own people, let alone the Palestinian people or any other people, with a plan deliberately denying a people a right which no people on earth have ever been denied in modern times. Hence it was Reagan himself, not the PLO, who foiled the Reagan plan from the very beginning because he denied our people their right to self-determination.

President Reagan personally and the U.S. Administration have, at least in the past few months, lost their credibility as a power capable of achieving anything which the Arabs may consider to be in their favor or of fulfilling even part of the Arab rights. Had Reagan managed to prove U.S. credibility in Lebanon as a side capable of making a reasonable achievement, even relatively, talk of the Reagan plan in relation to the Palestinian question would have been more favorable. The Palestinians and the Arabs have seen how the negotiations dragged on while Israel continued building airfields and military installations as if it was staying forever. Yet there was no U.S. pressure. The United States has so far been unable to stop the building of airfields and military installations in Lebanon — in Ad-Damur, An-Nabitayah, and Al-Baruk. How can any sane person believe that it is capable of getting the Israelis out of Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip?

I will sum up what I have said in a few words: The political substance offered by the United States cannot succeed as a basis for negotiations and, apart from the substance, the U.S. arm or U.S. mechanism has so far proved its impotence in Lebanon, which does not encourage any Arab side to take its plans seriously and take a final position on them.

'UKAZ: What Palestinian establishments will be permitted to operate in Lebanon?

Al-Hut: I refer you to my answer to the first question regarding the fate of the PLO office, which should have the responsibility of reaching some understanding with the Lebanese authorities regarding the future of these establishments and the means of legalizing them, if legal grounds are not already present. It is difficult for me to speculate or answer this question now. I do know, however, that many promises have been made that all the humanitarian, social, educational, and cultural establishments will be quite safe. I cannot say anything with certainty on this matter. Until the results of the Lebanese-Israeli negotiations become clear, the fate of these establishments and the PLO as an office and a diplomatic mission will hang in the balance.

Venezuela Reports Drop in OPEC Production

PA161920 Paris AFP in Spanish 1700 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] Caracas, 16 May (AFP) — The Venezuelan Government reported here today that OPEC's daily oil production dropped to 15 million barrels in April. In 1982 OPEC's daily oil production average was 18.4 million barrels. During the first 3 months of 1983, the following drops were registered: to 16.2 million barrels (January), 15.2 million (February), and 15.1 million (March), according to official Venezuelan reports.

However, Energy and Mines Minister Humberto Calderon stated today during a news conference that he is openly optimistic about the immediate future of the international oil market. The minister said: "Right now, the prices in the spot market are very close to the prices of the contract market in the OPEC countries. In addition to this, the number of transactions in the spot market has remained low."

He added: "According to available reports, the oil market is growing stronger and this is encouraging not only for the OPEC countries but also for the world's economy."

He stated: "It is worthwhile pointing out that some OPEC members such as Iran and Algeria have refused to reduce their oil prices."

BAHRAIN

Lebanese Minister Departs for Beirut 17 May

GF171418 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1045 GMT 17 May 83

[Excerpt] Manama, 17 May (WAKH) — Dr Ibrahim Halawah, Lebanese minister of economy, trade and tourism, and his accompanying delegation left Manama for Beirut today following a few hours' visit to Bahrain.

KUWAIT

Government 'Still Studying' Israel-Lebanon Accord

LD171453 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1418 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Kuwait, 17 May (KUNA) — Kuwait today abstained from declaring an official position regarding the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. However, an official source informed KUNA that the Kuwaiti Government is still studying the agreement. The source pointed out Kuwait's interest in developments in Lebanon and said that since the beginning of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last June this country has in various ways expressed its stand on the side of this brotherly country in facing aggression.

He added that Kuwait, since the beginning of the invasion has declared its support for all measures which aim at the liberation of Lebanese soil from the Israeli occupation, and in a way that will secure for Lebanon full sovereignty, independence, and the integrity of its territory and people.

Acceptance of Lebanese-Israeli Accord Urged

GF161908 Kuwait AS-SIYASAH in Arabic 15 May 83P 1

[Editorial: "It Was Desired That the Arabs Should Remain Refugees"]

[Text] No connection should be made between the Camp David accords and Lebanon's agreement with Israel. The Camp David agreement could have been acceptable if it had taken place in circumstances similar to Lebanon's. Part of the crisis created by the Camp David agreement was due to the fact that the late Egyptian president should have accepted the Arab reaction to the agreement and stood fast in the face of Arab harassment, for the Arabs had found in the Camp David agreement an opportunity to attack each other and settle accounts. As-Sadat should not have reacted to the Arabs' reaction.

The Lebanese-Israeli agreement does not depart from the agreement reached by the UN Security Council, which was accepted by the Arabs. As for the slogan, "Let the Israeli enemy remain in Lebanon and Lebanon should not sign an agreement with him," such a slogan was said to the Palestinians in 1948 when the armistice agreement was being discussed.

The result was that the Arabs lost and Israel expanded, built settlements, forged borders and decided on its own what security is. The slogan of "Let the Israelis remain in Lebanon" and "President Al-Jumayyil's government must not sign an agreement with them" is a slogan that is rejected by the Lebanese, and this is their cause.

Portugal occupied Goa in India for 300 years, and everything in Goa was Portuguese. However, despite the agreements, despite everything, when the opportunity came India gained all of Goa, and no one objected at the time. Indeed it was said that India regained its rights.

As for the northern Arab front, Israel is in the region and who knows what the future will bring? Are the Arabs expected to remain refugees so that Israel will continue to get stronger? What is required is that the Arabs should become stronger as India became stronger and regained its rights. The rejection of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement is unjustificable unless there is a better alternative — and this the Arabs would like to know.

As for saying that the agreement is a violation of Lebanese sovereignty, Lebanese sovereignty is already violated by the presence of foreign forces in Lebanon, whether such forces are Israeli or non-Israeli.

QATAR

Libyan Emissary Arrives in Doha 17 May

GF171047 Doha QNA in Arabic 0810 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Doha, 17 May (QNA) — Libyan Petroleum Secretary Kamil Hasan al-Maqhur arrived in Doha from Manama this morning on a visit to Qatar in the course of his tour of the region's countries, where he is delivering a message from Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the leaders of these countries regarding the current developments in the Arab arena.

The Libyan official was received on arrival at the airport by Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari minister of finance and petroleum; 'Abdallah Hamad al-'Atiyyah, director of public relations at the Finance and Petroleum Ministry; Ambassador Ahmad Jasim al-Malla, director of the Protocol Department ar the Foreign Ministry; and Bahlul Mukhtar Rahimah, the Libyan charge d'affaires in Doha.

SAUDI ARABIA

French Minister Concludes Visit to Kingdom

Meeting With King Fahd

LD171057 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1020 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Ad-Dammam, 17 May (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received French Interior Minister Gaston Deferre, who is currently visiting the kingdom, in his office at the royal court in Ad-Damman at 1230 today.

The meeting was attended by Their Royal Highnesses Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz.

17 May Departure

LD171626 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1414 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Dhahran, 17 May (SPA) — French Interior Minister Gaston Deferre left Dhahran this afternoon after a 4-day official visit to the Kingdom.

He was seen off by His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, amir of the eastern region and Saudi interior minister; Prince 'Abd al-Muhsin ibn Jalawi; and a number of senior officials.

Bahraini Amir Pays Visit to Kingdom 17 May

Meets With King Fahd

LD171622 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1408 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Ad-Dammam, 17 May (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz and the amir of the State of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah held a meeting at 1500 (local) this afternoon at the royal court in Ad-Dammam.

The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard; His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, interior minister; His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister; and 'Abd ar-Rahman al-Qadi, the Kingdom's ambassador to Bahrain. On the Bahraini side Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah, Foreign Minister Shaykh Mubarak ibn Al Khalifah, Interior Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah AlKhalifah and Interior Ministry Assistant Under Secretary Shaykh 'Ali ibn Khalifah ibn Salman Al Khalifah attended.

A number of issues concerning the two countries were discussed during the meeting.

Departs for Manama

LD171625 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1442 GMT 17 May 83

[Excerpt] Dhahran, 17 May (SPA) — The amir of the State of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah left Dhahran airport at 1645 (local), returning to his country after a short visit to the Kingdom.

King Fahd Receives Libyan Envoy 17 May

LD172227 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2047 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Ad-Dammam 17 May (SPA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz received Ahmad Qadhaf ad-Dam, the Libyan president's envoy, at the royal court in Ad-Dammam this evening.

UAE

Libyan Oil Secretary Arrives on 1-Day Visit

GF171946 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 17 May (WAKH) — Libyan Petroleum Secretary Dr Kamil Hasan al-Maqhur arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening on a 1-day visit to the UAE within his current tour of a number of the region's states.

He stated on arrival that he is carrying a message for UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan from Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi on the latest developments in the Arab region.

He was received in the airport by Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE petroleum and natural resources minister; and 'Ali Mahmud Maria, secretary of the Libyan brotherhood office in the UAE.

Papers Reject Israeli-Lebanese Agreement

GF170946 Abu Dhabi WAM in Arabic 0640 GMT 17 May 83

[From the press review]

[Excerpts] Abu Dhabi, 17 (WAM) — The newspapers AL-KHALIJ and AL-WAHDAH expressed their rejection of the agreement signed between Lebanon and the Israeli enemy and called upon the Arab countries to break their silence. This silence, as the Ash-Shariqah-based AL-KHALIJ said, "simply means an implicit approval of the agreement with all its contents and also provides Arab cover for the Lebanese regime that signed the agreement. At best, this silence means acceptance of or no objection to similar agreements to be imposed by the United States and Israel upon other Arab countries one by one."

The newspaper AL-WAHDAH said that the Lebanese-Israeli agreement "can achieve a narrow strategy for a group whose view of the Zionist-[Arab] conflict is in fact different from the view of the majority of the Lebanese people, who believe it is a conflict of life or death and a cultural conlfict between one people living on a geographically demarcated land and a group of adventurous invaders who based their expansionist plans on the presence of groups that seek to achieve factional predominence."

Comparison of UAE Heir Apparent Interview

Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic on 11 May carries on page 3 the text of the UAE heir apparent's AFP interview. The AL-ITTIHAD version has been compared with the Abu Dhabi WAM Arabic version published in the 12 May Middle East and Africa DAILY REPORT, pp C 3-5 and has been found to be identical, thus allowing for the following addition:

Page C 4, paragraph six, line two reads ...of military cooperation between the two countries as well as reviewing what has been accomplished during the past period in light of the agreement of military and technical cooperation that was signed between the two countries in 1977.

I can say that the results of these intense talks were useful and fruitful. The French side expressed its readiness to supply the UAE Army during the upcoming stage with the most recent advanced ground, naval and air weapons from French factories. Mr Charles Hernu, the French defense minister, told me that his country appreciates the UAE anxiousness to confirm its security and protect its independence and interests. We explained our requirements for French arms that suit our circumstances from all sides. We prefer not to announce arms deals when contracted because what matters is to have these weapons in hand and train our men to use them properly and comprehend them well.

Question: What are the defense priorities of the UAE and what are the concerns and threats that necessitate building a UAE defense force?

Answer: We are a sovereign state that adopts its decisions fully independently. We have the right to build the forces that are capable of protecting our homeland. It is in our interest to reinforce our security and to set policies that protect the interests of our nation and safeguard its presence and... (supplying indistinct passage)

PDRY

Libyan Minister Meets With Chairman, Departs

Delivers Al-Qadhdhafi Message

GF171942 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 May 83

[Excerpt] Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, received at his residence in ('Afaq) town in Shabwah Governorate today, Brother 'Abd al-Majid al-Qa'ud, Libyan atomic energy secretary, who delivered to him a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the September Revolution, on the militant relations between the two fraternal countries, in addition to developments in the current situation in the Arab arena.

Leaves Aden 17 May

GF171944 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 May 83

[Excerpt] Brother 'Abd al-Majid al-Qa'ud, Libyan Atomic Energy secretary and personal envoy of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the leader of the 1 September Revolution, left Aden today following a short visit to the country.

PDRY-YAR Military Committee Issues Statement

GF171736 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 May 83

[Text of the final statement issued by the PDRY-YAR Joint Military Committee at the conclusion of its first session in Aden 12-17 May 1983]

[Text] The Joint Military Committee for the two parts of Yemen held its first session for 1983, 12-17 May in Aden. The North Yemeni side was led by Lieutenant Colonel 'Ali Muhammad Salah, deputy chief of general staff, while the South Yemeni side was led by Lieutenant Colonel 'Abd al-Wasi' as-Sallam, deputy interior minister.

Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, met with the members of the Joint Military Committee and gave them the required instructions, which enabled the success of the joint committee's meetings, which in turn served to strengthen the fraternal relations and the excellent coordination between the two leaderships of the two parts of Yemen. The instructions had a good effect on the Joint Military Committee's meetings.

In a fraternal and amicable atmosphere, which prevailed with total understanding, the joint committee held several meetings, during which it discussed and approved the draft law for organizing the interior ministry and the draft law for Yemeni nationality for a unified state.

The members of the YAR committee visited the (?Sayhul) Directorate in Hadramawt Governorate and (?Rabhan) Directorate in Lahij Governorate, during which they inspected the accomplishments which have been achieved in those two directorates.

The Joint Military Committee for the two parts of Yemen thanked Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih for their diligent efforts to make the meetings a success and for the positive coordination which links the two political leaderships in the two parts of Yemen toward the restoration of Yemeni national unity and the achievement of its progress and prosperity.

YAR

Election Announced; Salih Declines Another Term

Presidential Election To Begin

GF180636 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 May 83

[Text] SABA' NEWS AGENCY has learned that the procedures for the presidential candidacy and election will begin Wednesday, 18 May 1983.

People's Constitutional Council Convened

GF171620 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] SABA' NEWS AGENCY has learned that Brother Colonel'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president, commander in chief of the armed forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, has called for an extraordinary meeting of the People's Constitutional Council under the chairmanship of the brother president at 0900 tomorrow.

Salih Announcement to Council

GF181320 Doha QNA in Arabic 1240 GMT 18 May 83

[Text] San'a', 18 May (QNA) — YAR President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih declared before the People's Constitutional Council that he will not nominate himself for another presidential term.

President 'Ali Salih asked the council, which held an extraordinary session today, to hear a statement from him regarding its constitutional rights to nominate and elect a new president within 60 days.

It should be mentioned that the presidential term of the Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih ends in July.

'Ali Welcomes Lebanese Endorsement of Agreement

NC171258 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali has told our radio correspondent that Egypt again welcomes the stance taken by the Lebanese parliament in unanimously endorsing the draft Lebanese-Israeli agreement which stipulates that the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanese territory take place in 8 to 12 weeks from the start of the implementation of the agreement.

'Ali said that the Lebanese parliament's stance adds firm support to the stance of the legitimate Lebanese authority which had waged a difficult battle of negotiations to reach an agreement on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces under extremely difficult and complicated circumstances.

'Ali pointed out that Egypt believes that the influence of this important step will again be felt when facing all the internal and external sides, which must respect the will of the Lebanese people as represented in the decision of their legitimate government and their legislative authority.

Therefore, Egypt urges all these sides to abide by the will of Lebanon and not to create any obstacles that could harm the interests of the Lebanese people or perpetuate the Israeli occupation of its territories.

'Ali Receives Shamir Message on Agreement

NC171610 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Kamal Hasan 'Ali today met with the Israeli ambassador in Cairo at the request of the ambassador who communicated to 'Ali a message from the Israeli foreign minister on the Lebanese-Israeli agreement and Israel's commitment to effect its withdrawal from Lebanon in accordance with the agreement.

Ghali, SFRY Envoy Discuss Lebanon Accord

NC171139 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1115 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali today received Yugoslav Ambassador in Cairo Lazar Zivulj at his request.

During the meeting they discussed the latest developments in the Middle East in light of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement and future possibilities. They also discussed the Nonaligned Movement and the 19th session of the African summit conference.

Ghali Affirms Welcome of Lebanese-Israeli Accord

NC171525 Cairo MENA in English 1502 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Cairo, May 17 (MENA) — Egyptian State Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali reiterated that Egypt welcomes the Israeli-Lebanese accord on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon and said he hoped that obstacles in the way of its implementation would be removed.

He also expressed hope that all foreign troops would leave Lebanon and that Lebanon's sovereignty would be restored over every inch of its territory.

Dr Ghali's statement came in the course of a meeting with the British ambassador in Oman, currently visiting Cairo. The meeting was attended by the British ambassador in Cairo Michael Weir.

During the meeting, the two sides reviewed all aspects of the Mideast situation, especially in the light of the Israeli-Lebanese accord.

Ghali on Syrian Stand

NC172241 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA) — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali stated that the Lebanese-Israeli agreement is an important step along the path of a comprehensive peace, but that it must be followed by other steps.

In an interview, which will be published by Cairo's AL-AKHBAR tomorrow, Wednesday, Ghali expresses again Egypt's welcome of the agreement on the basis that it realizes the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon and guarantees its sovereignty over its terrtory.

Regarding the Syrian stand on the agreement, Dr Ghali says: I cannot imagine Syria or any other Arab side working for the continuation of the Israeli occupation of Lebanon. He adds that Syria must take into consideration Lebanon's vital interests and the interests of its people.

Dr Ghali stresses that Syria has interests in Lebanon which must be taken into consideration. He points out that more than one formula could be worked out to guarantee Syria's interests in Lebanon, and guarantee Syrian security.

Dr Ghali explains that it is possible to work out security arrangements in the interest of Syria in the Al-Biqa' area along the pattern of the arrangements in southern Lebanon, or to conclude a special agreement between Syria and Lebanon. It is also possible to ensure international guarantees safeguarding Syria's security.

Asked whether the agreement affects Lebanon's Arab affiliation, Dr Ghali emphasizes that Lebanon's Arab affiliation is an established fact, and that it is not a decision made today to be cancelled tomorrow.

Dr Ghali says that it is not true that the agreement detracts from Lebanon's sovereignty and independence, but that what detracts from this sovereignty are the continuation of the Israeli occupation and the presence of the Syrian forces in Lebanon.

Commentary On Lebanese-Israeli Accord Approval

NC171352 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 May 83

[Baha' ad-Din Shu'ayb Commentary: "All Efforts Must be Concerted To Bring About Success of Israeli-Lebanese Agreement"]

[Text] The Lebanese parliament and the Israeli Knesset have approved the agreement for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon. Undoubtedly, this approval is an important step on the path of stability in the Middle East, and has confirmed the fact that the most difficult subjects and [words indistinct] can be settled by peaceful means. It also demonstrated the U.S. ability to effectively help in rectifying convulsive situations and putting an end to Israel's aggressive practices.

Although the agreement for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon has succeeded thus far in pulling away the burning fuse, the possibilities of future danger continue to exist. Indeed, the (?development) in events could plunge the entire area into a conflagration. Lebanese Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim has stated that the Lebanese-Israeli agreement will be implemented only when Syria and the PLO decide to withdraw their forces from Lebanon. This means — and this is common knowledge — that the implementation of the agreement and the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon is contingent upon the withdrawal of the Syrian and Palestinian forces.

We are aware that Syria has officially and categorically declared that its forces will remain in Lebanon until the Israeli forces withdraw. Some Syrian officials have declared their opposition to the agreement, describing it as a document of submission in favor of Israel at the expense of Lebanon, that the Syrians will not let this agreement go through under any circumstances, and that they — if it becomes necessary — might [word indistinct] to (?trigger) the situation inside Lebanon and plunge it into a sea of blood. The Syrian opposition is complemented by some main Lebanese opposition forces, which held a meeting with the official Lebanese leadership during which they expressed their rejection of and opposition to the agreement.

All this leads us to one thing: The situation in Lebanon is tottering on the brink of an abyss. Tackling the Lebanese situation on the basis of who should withdraw before whom, or by attempting to achieve a plan for simultaneous withdrawal, is a sensitive and dangerous game. Both the Syrian and Israeli sides do not desire it [as heard] because both sides, deep inside, wish the agreement to collapse so that they can continue to control the positions they are now occupying.

Therefore, the greatest feat the United States can perform to complete the grand work it did when it succeeded in drafting the agreement for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon, and when it succeeded in obtaining the two sides' approval of the agreement in principle, is for it to compel Israel to take a preliminary withdrawal step without linking this withdrawal to the withdrawal of any other foreign forces from Lebanon. In such an event, it can be said that the other foreign forces will not be able to procrastinate in withdrawing from Lebanon and, therefore, the major aim will be achieved; namely, the withdrawal of all the foreign froces from Lebanon. Otherwise, the possibilities of a clash will continue to exist in view of the numerous parties which have given themselves the right of trusteeship over the Lebanese people. The agreement which has been approved is a step forward, and the momentum must continue so that [word indisitinct] 10 steps backward.

Cairo Papers Praise Lebanon-Israel Accord

NC170548 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Cairo, 17 May (MENA) — In their comments on the signing of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, the Cairo newspapers AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH stress the need for extending Arab and international support to Lebanon and for respecting its desire to regain its independence and sovereignty over all its territory.

In its edition for tomorrow, Wednesday, AL-AHRAM says that following the signing of the agreement, the situation calls for the continuation of the Lebanese, U.S., and Arab efforts so that Lebanon can maintain its unity and independence and realize its national aims as an independent and sovereign Arab state.

AL-AHRAM draws attention to the fact that the coming stage requires the Lebanese people and the Arab states that are interested in Lebanon's stability and its protection from division to be extremely alert.

The paper demands that the state of divided loyalties inside fraternal Lebanon end and that all sides take their hands off it so that the Lebanese alone can exercise the right to self-determination without any interference or pressure. It says that Lebanon must not pay the price of Arab division and the absence of a unified Arab stand.

In its article, AL-JUMHURIYAH stresses that the success of the legitimate Lebanese authority in reaching an agreement providing for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon is an achievement for which it must be praised and not criticized. The paper says: Syria must respond to the desire of the Lebanese people and all their communities to get rid of the Israeli presence on their land, particularly because the agreement which Lebanon has signed with Israel is considered in essence less than a peace treaty.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that Egypt has welcomed the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, considering it an important step contributing to a comprehensive and durable settlement in the Middle East. This is based on Egypt's special view that peace in Lebanon is a step that will lead to peace on the Syrian, Jordanian, and Palestinian fronts.

Prime Minister Speaks at Investment Conference

NC171906 Cairo MENA in English 1845 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Cairo, May 17 (MENA) — Prime Minister Dr Fu'ad Muhyi ad-Din opened here today the international conference on development of money (capital) markets.

The three-day conference is attended by investment, economy, finance and planning ministers, in addition to those interested in economy and investment in Egypt.

The conference's opening session was also attended by ambassadors of some foreign countries.

In an inaugural speech, the prime minister underlined the importance of this conference as it comes at a time when Egypt is giving all its attention to the economic development issue for achieving welfare, prosperity and stability.

The government's plans in this field aim at creating an atmosphere conducive to pooling of savings, promoting investment in all domains and reviving the money market in Egypt as one of the basic foundations of the economic activity, the prime minister said.

Summing up the development strategy concept, Dr Muhyi ad-Din said it involves a thrust by the society using all its energies to achieve more production, strike a balance between the production and services sectors and boost investment acivity in accordance with planned priorities.

The government's policy on rectifying the economic course is mainly based on providing an appropriate atmosphere conducive to encouragement of capital flowability to set up more productive projects, in addition to an extension on existing projects to achieve economic and social objectives, he said.

To consolidate Egypt's policy of economic liberalization, the government has invited some international organizations to study the money market potential in Egypt, he said.

These studies, he added, confirmed that Egypt has various potentials qualifying it to become an international money market to serve the finance and development purposes at the regional, Arab, and international levels.

Cooperation Agreement Signed With Switzerland

NC171653 Cairo MENA in English 1616 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Cairo, May 17 (MENA) -- Egypt and Switzerland signed today a technical cooperation agreement whereby Switzerland would help in the establishment of an electricity generating station at Hulwan.

The 100,000 kilowatts power station would cost 25 million dollars to be financed by soft loans from Swiss banks.

The station which would be operated by natural gas available from Egyptian fields would meet the requirements of Hulwan cement factories and would be connected with the main grid of the republic to make use of any surplus power.

The new station would be established by the Swiss Brown Boveri corporation which is executing two other similar stations [words indistinct].

Cross-reference on Ash-Sharif Visit to FRG

Minister Ash-Sharif Arrives in Bonn 17 May

For reportage on the official visit to the FRG by Minister of State for Information Safwat ash-Sharif, see the West German section of the 18 May Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Communique On 16-17 May War Operations

JN171601 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1525 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Baghdad, 17 May (INA) — The losses inflicted on the Iranian forces of aggression by the Iraqi Armed Forces were three killed and two infantry positions, two observation posts, and one vehicle carrying soldiers destroyed. Communique No 1,094 issued by the Armed Forces General Command here this evening said that an Iranian civil engineer and his family sought refuge yesterday with the Iraqi forward units in the northern sector of the front. They were peacefully and safely evacuated to the rear . The following is the text of the communique:

Communique No 1,094 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The brave sons of Iraq have continued their daring operations against the Iranian forces of aggression. The results for last night and today are as follows:

1. One of our forward units attacked an enemy concentration in front of its positions in the area east of Basra killing three and destroying one infantry position and one observation post.

2. One of our forward units sighted an enemy vehicle carrying soldiers in front of our positions in the central sector of the front. Our unit opened fire and destroyed it.

3. One infantry position and one observation post were destroyed in the Maysan sector.

4. Escaping the tyranny and terror of the suspect regime of Khomeyni, an Iranian civil engineer and his family sought refuge with one of our forward units in the northern sector of the front yesterday. The engineer and his family were evacuated to the rear in complete peace and safety.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 May 1983

LE MONDE: 'Aziz Offers Oil To Pay Arms Debt

PM171400 Paris LE MONDE in French 14 May 83 pp 1,4

[Interview with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz by Paul Balta in Paris on 12 May]

[Text] "I met with [French Economy, Finance and Budget Minister] Mr Jacques Delors for the second time on Friday morning [as published] and I am seeing [French External Relations Minister] Mr Claude Cheysson in the afternoon: I have high hopes that we will by then have found a solution to the financial problems which exist between our two countries and that I will be able to leave on Saturday." It was on that optimistic note that Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz ended the interview that he granted to us on the evening of Thursday, 12 May. Indeed, since Monday he has been conducting delicate negotiations he began in Paris in January and which continued with External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson's visit to Baghdad in February and then by exchange of letters. He also had meetings with [French Premier] Mr Mauroy and [French Defense Minister] Charles Hernu but, asked whether he discussed an order for Super-Etendard aircraft and Exocet air-to-sea missiles, he replied that he is not "concerned with arms questions."

The French state that since the start of the Gulf war in September 1980, Iraq has bought arms worth Fr41.1 billion from France. Owing to the continuation of the conflict and the resulting difficulties, the Iraqis have asked for a rescheduling of the civilian and military repayments of their debt in 1983, which apparently amounts to around Fr13 billion.

That being so, French negotiators could only hope to succeed in view of the scale of bilateral cooperation. Indeed the civilian and military contracts at present guaranteed by COFACE (insurance body for exporters) represent around Fr35 billion for Iraq, and the "real risk" which should be indemnified in case of nonpayment is officially evaluated at Fr7 to 8 billion. Finally, at the political level, France does not want Baghdad to be defeated, since a victory for Tehran would considerably change the balance of forces in the Gulf and in the Near East as a whole. In addition, Paris would lose its "stake" in Iraq — a loss that would be added to the disappointments suffered in Iran after the advent of the Islamic revolution.

Mr Tariq 'Aziz, who has the knack of simplifying the most complex matters, expalined: "I do not deny the problems, but I am anxious to make things clear. I have not come to borrow. Hitherto we have always paid down to the last cent. Moreover, our military development is like our civilian development, it is being carried out in a far-reaching way, and our contracts with France are long-term contracts that go beyond the framework of the present war."

[Question] What are you proposing in practical terms?

[Answer] We say that if we had been new clients we would have obtained better terms than the ones accepted before we were in difficulty. In addition, since the last 3 months of 1982, France has not bought one barrel of oil from us, whereas before, it was taking 25 million tons from us. We are offering it between 2.5 and 3.5 million tons of the crude oil that we are producing. We could thus honor around 90 percent of our repayments in 1983 and pay the balance in 1984. Otherwise we would have to find other arrangements. For instance, we could pay 40 percent in 1983. [answer ends]

For the benefit of French companies, Mr Tariq 'Aziz described the situation of a man who is having a house built and has difficulties when it is half built. "Either he finds a compromise with the entrepreneur and he completes the work," he said, "Or he pays what he owes, stops the building, and finishes it when he has the means to do so."

Mr Tariq 'Aziz explained that the Iraqis, who are good payers, were the first to be surprised when they encountered difficulties at the end of 1982. "Since then we have found arrangements with the German, Japanese, British, and other companies which preferred to grant payment facilities in order not to lose the equipment involved and not to lay off staff. In any case, when the situation is good again we will favor those who cooperated with us in difficult times.

[Question] Is France not entitled to be worried about the future when Iran is waging a war of attrition against you in the hope of bankrupting you and overthrowing the regime?

[Answer] Iran is taking a bad gamble. Khomeyni's supporters began by waging an ideological war against us. They failed. Then they said they would defeat us on a military level. They failed again. We pulled our troops back to the international borders in June 1982. They have launched 14 offensives since 13 July, all to no avail. Today they are waging an economic battle against us, but they will fail. Iraq has vast economic resources. On the other hand, nobody has confidence in the Iranian economy.

[Question] In January you said that the Gulf countries' aid was around $20 billion and not $50 billion. Has it increased since then?

[Answer] No. Or very little. It is to be found mainly in the oil sphere (sold on Iraq's behalf). It is very low in view of the strategic stakes. The Gulf countries know that we are defending security in the Gulf and that without us they would have been sept away by the Iranian fanatics.

[Question] You met with the U.S. secretary of state in Paris....

[Answer] Yes, but only as a colleague (Mr Tariq 'Aziz was appointed foreign minister last January — LE MONDE note). We wanted to become acquainted.

The Oil Slick

[Question] Did you discuss the restoration of diplomatic relations between Baghdad and Washington?

[Answer] No but we thought it useful to establish better underhyphenationstanding between our two countries. Above all, I explained to him Iraq's viewpoint on the Gulf war. Everybody now thinks that the continuation of this conflict is ridiculous and is caused by Iran's obstinacy. It is time that the Security Council members passed resolutions that were not mere hopes but had a binding nature in order to restore peace. The texts should make provisions for sanctions in the event of a failure to implement them. Mr Shultz received my suggestion in a positive way and I think that the United States will take an initiative.

[Question] The International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] has published a report which strongly criticizes Iran but also, to a lesser extent, your country, which is accused of displacing Khuzestan's civilian population.

[Answer] I do not want to criticize the ICRC, which has done an admirable job and to which we gave financial help in carrying out its mission. We are drafting a memorandum in response to it. I think there has been a misunderstanding and a breakdown in communications with the local authorities. There are two instances of this. On the one hand, in view of the civil war which is raging in Iranian Kurdestan, thousands of Kurds have taken refuge in our country. On the other hand, the Arabs of Arabistan (Khuzestan), who cooperated with the Iraqi troops, have done likewise for fear of Iranian reprisals. Why would we have forced them to come to our country? To feed them and add an economic burden to our problems?

[Question] Iraq is accused of adopting an intransigent stance which is not making it easier to combat the oil slick in the Gulf. The Gulf countries are worried.

[Answer] The oil slick has only done damage on the Iranian coasts, it has not reached Arab shores. People say that the fish are dying, but the war is killing men. The Iranians have destroyed our oil installations in the south and are preventing us from exporting our oil. Should we allow them to repair their wells when they are not sparing us? It is time to be concerned about the war and end it. If our Arab brothers have water supply problems, we are prepared to help them.

GCC Officials Arrive for Oil Slick Talks

JN171923 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Baghdad, 17 May (INA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Rashid 'Abdallah an-Nu'aymi, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Baghdad tonight on a short visit to Iraq.

In a statement to INA, Shaykh as-Sabah said: Our visit to Iraq is a mission from the GCC to discuss with our Iraqi brothers the problem of the oil slick, resulting from the flow of oil from the Iranian Nowruz oil field, from the political and technical viewpoints and all related issues. He added: We will also discuss the issue's political and technical aspects with the Iranian officials during our second visit to [illegible]dan.

They were received on arrival by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs; and a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

President Receives GCC Officials

JN181309 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1255 GMT 18 May 83

[Text] Baghdad, 18 May (INA) — President Saddam Husayn this morning received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad as-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs. The discussions during the meeting focused on the situation in the Arab Gulf and the developments in the Arab region.

The meeting was attended by 'Izzat Ibrahim, Revolution Command Council vice chairman; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Khalid 'Abd al-Mun'im Rashid, director of the presidential office.

The two Arab officials arrived in Baghdad yesterday.

Haddad Addresses APU Baghdad Conference

JN171705 Baghdad INA in English 1540 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Baghdad, May 17, INA — Arab parliamentarians began here Tuesday 4-day meetings to tackle the most crucial issues confronting the Arab nation and to draw an accepted plan on peace in the Middle East.

Other main issues listed in the Agenda of the 3rd Arab Parliamentary Union (APU) on the parliamentarians' role to promote Arab solidarity, Afro-Arab relations, coordinating activities of Arab parliamentary delegations to the 70th conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union and the APU activities since its foundation.

Inaugurating the conference, speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly (parliament) Na'im Haddad, spoke on various Arab developments and the parliamentarians' role at this critical circumstances facing the Arab nation.

Mr Haddad said the Zionist invasion of Lebanon was a clear evidence of deterioration in the Arab life that requires a deep-rooted change in the behaviour of Arab masses and regimes alike towards a new state of challenge and foreign dangers which pardon no one of the responsibility for the harms and consequences on the Arab existence at present and future.

Mr Haddad added that the real Arab solidarity can not be found without restoring the original values and sound ties that link the Arab to his brother and the resort to Arab fraternity within the frame-work of the Arab League, the Arab Joint Defence Treaty and to serious commitment to the Arab summits resolutions.

Turning to the Iraq-Iran war, Mr Haddad pointed out that Iraq spared no effort to end the war imposed on it by the Khomeyni regime, but various international quarters, including the Zionists, were pushing Tehran rulers to carry on their war of aggression by providing them with weaponery, ammunition and knowhow.

The insistence on the prolongation of war, he noted, was only serving the Zionist and imperialist interests and the exhausting of Iraq's potentials is directly damaging the interests of the Palestinian revolution and that of the Arab nation in general.

Iraq, Mr Haddad pointed out, had voluntarily withdrew its troops from Iranian territories, but the blood-thirsty rulers of Tehran have since mounted scores of desperate offensives to break through Iraq international borders. Their harvest was a bitter one, he said.

Mr Haddad called for a concentrated effort to pressurize Iran rulers to put an end for hostilities and to start negotiations leading to a just and honourable solution securing the rights of the two warring factions, and preserving their respective sovereignty.

The Arab parliamentarians should shoulder extraordinary tasks in saying the truth and adopting the pan-Arab stand in giving priority to the struggle against the imperialist and Zionist despite the differences which might arise between some Arab regimes as a result of the disintegrated Arab situation and their different kinds of ruling structures, Mr Haddad pointed out.

He expressed willingness to every parliamentarian endeavour with aim to purify the Arab atmosphere and to unify ranks against the Zionist entity and the aggressor Iranian regime. He called for limitless support to the Palestinians by all available means. He also called for an increase in supporting Lebanon in order to realise an immediate, comprehsnive and unconditional withdrawal of the Zionistoccupation forces and to secure Lebanon's unity, integrity and independence as well as restoring reconciliation in Lebanon.

Referring to Egypt, Mr Haddad said that we are waiting for Egypt to rejoin the Arab ranks in order to resume its pan-Arab role. The previous years assured that Egypt's Arabism is unchangeable whatsoever powers tried to do so, he added.

He said we are with great pleasure watching the positive developments recently took place in the Arab Maghreb towards relaxation and solving their problems.

He stressed on the Eritrean people's right to self-determination and for independence.

INA learns that the delegates unanimously decided to discuss other issues including supporting Iraq in its just battle against the Iranian regime.

Two Parliamentary political and economic committees were formed to discuss various political issues, the APU's relations with parliamentary organizations in Latin America and Europe and coordinating Arab parliaments' attitudes.

Delegates from Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Tunisia, Algeria, Djibouti, Sudan, Somalia, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, the Yemen Arab Republic, the Yemen Democratic Republic and the Palestine National Council are taking part in the meetings.

The first session which was attended by Vice-President Taha Muhyi ad-Din Ma'ruf and a number of ministers was adjourned and to be resumed this evening.

Ramadan Receives Yugoslav Official 17 May

JN171456 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1325 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Baghdad, 17 May (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, received here today Abdulah Mutapcic, member of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council and deputy head of the Yugoslav delegation in the Joint Iraqi-Yugoslav Committee [title as received].

Ramadan expressed Iraq's satisfaction with the development in Iraqi-Yugoslav relations. He pointed out that these relations derive their strength from the atmosphere of principled friendship and joint objectives between the two countries. He explained that the circumstances of the war through which Iraq is passing will not hinder the march of cooperation in the various spheres. He also stressed that Iraq is determined to continue construction and progress under all circumstances.

The Iraqi official also pointed out the importance of the Joint Iraqi-Yugoslav Committee meetings and their role in expanding cooperation, especially since there are many spheres and great capabilities that can serve future cooperation in accordance with the desires of the officials of both countries to expand and promote cooperation between the peoples of both countries.

Abdulah Mutapcic expressed admiration for the developing construction in Iraq despite the war. He said that this development proves the Iraqi people's determination to continue their progress. He reiterated his country's readiness to contribute to this progress proceeding from the ties of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. Mutapcic stressed that his country is proud of the progressing cooperation with Iraq, stressing its desire to promote and expand this cooperation in various spheres.

The two sides discussed means of promoting cooperation between the two countries in the service of the common interests of their friendly peoples.

Hasan 'Ali Receives Mutapcic

JN172041 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Hasan 'Ali, minister of trade and Revolution Command Council member, today received Abdulah Mutapcic, member of the Yugoslav Federal Executive Council and deputy head of the Yugoslav side in the Joint Iraqi-Yugoslav Committee [title as heard].

Hasan 'Ali expressed Iraq's confidence in the development of bilateral relations. He also urged the promotion of these relations in the service of the common interests of the two friendly peoples. Mutapcic stressed the Yugoslav leadership's pride in the developed relations between Iraq and Yugoslavia in the service of the common interests of the two friendly peoples.

During the meeting, attended by 'Abd at-Tawwab [name indistinct], senior secretary at the Industry and Minerals Ministry and deputy head of the Iraqi side in the joint committee, the two sides reviewed economic and trade relations and means to promote them. They also reviewed the topics being discussed in the follow-up meetings of the joint committee's eighth session.

The director general of the Department of Relations with the Socialist States in the Trade Ministry and the Yugoslav ambassador in Baghdad also attended the meeting.

Nigerian Envoy Arrives in Baghdad 17 May

JN171924 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1840 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Baghdad, 17 May (INA) — Muhammad Bello Kirifi, Nigerian minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived here tonight as a personal envoy to President Saddam Husayn from Nigerian President Alhaji Shehu Shagari.

The Nigerian envoy was received by Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs, and the Nigerian ambassador in Baghdad.

AD-DUSTUR Views Lebanese-Israeli Agreement

JN171037 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 17 May 83

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "Justice and Peace are Indivisible," AD-DUSTUR says: The political observer's attention is drawn to one important point concerning the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the similar or contradictory texts of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement that have been published. If we exclude Israel, being the party that attacked and occupied the Lebanese territory, we find that the whole world community supports the withdrawal of the occupation forces and the restoration of Lebanon's unity and sovereignty over all its territory. Still, there have been different stands and reactions by those who have read the agreement, those who have received an incomplete text, and those who have adopted a stand in light of the stand of this or that party. We say, an important point has drawn the attention of the political observer; it is this semi-unanimity — if we exclude Israel and other international parties — on the issue that the question is not ending Israel's occupation of Lebanon or signing any kind of agreement between Lebanon and Israel, but the Middle East crisis and its crux, the Palestine question.

AD-DUSTUR adds: Nobody can claim that the Camp David accords, which were signed by the largest Arab state along with Israel, have succeeded in achieving a minimum of stability and justice in the region. The same thing can also be said about any Lebanese-Israeli agreement. Any agreement that does not stem from international legality and the resolutions that clearly call for the necessity of Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, will be no more than an armistice agreement, whatever the gains and losses of this or that party from such an agreement. His Majesty King Husayn made this quite clear in his speech to the Arab Americans.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: We are certain that the most that any Lebanese-Israeli agreement can achieve is to restore Lebanon and the Arab region to their status before the invasion. If there are parties among the Arabs and the world community that do not wish such a thing to happen, such an agreement will be of no value, in the short or long term, if it does not pave the way for a just settlement that primarily takes into account the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and the full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories. The experience of the Arabs, including Egypt, with Camp David, provides proof that peace is not achieved by only one side obtaining land and security. The region will remain subject to conflagration, and stability and justice will remain remote as long as the results and not the causes are tackled, as we have always said.

Prince Hasan's Washington Meetings Reported

JN171510 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Amman — Crown Prince Hasan met in Washington yesterday with members of the Foreign Affairs Committee at the U.S. House of Representatives. He also met with Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger at the Defense Department building. The meeting was attended by members of the delegation accompanying his highness.

Vice President George Bush held a reception in honor of Prince Hasan attended by ranking U.S. officials and members of the delegation accompanying Prince Hasan.

The deputy secretary of state also gave a working luncheon in honor of Crown Prince Hasan at the State Department building. The assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, his deputy, and several ranking State Department officials attended. Minister of Court 'Amir Khammash was also present.

PLO's Al-Wazir Arrives in Amman 18 May

JN181308 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 May 83

[Text] Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, arrived unexpectedly in Amman today on a visit of unspecified duration. It should be recalled that this is his first visit since the the dialogue between the Jordanian Government and the PLO was suspended on 10 April.

Ministry Statement Restricts Travel From W. Bank

JN171914 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] The Ministry of the Interior this evening issued the following statement:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Statement by the Ministry of the Interior.

Since the West Bank fell under Israeli occupation in June 1967, Jordan has adhered to maintaining the flow of traffic across the bridges for the sake of [preserving] life and steadfastness. The bridges between the two banks have been and will continue to be a lifeline and a channel of intercourse among the kinfolk, not a place to bid a final farewell to the homeland, as the occupying Zionist enemy desires.

Therefore, since the early days of occupation, Jordan has followed a policy that secures support for the kinfolk's steadfastness and alleviates the occupation's pressures on them, until this nightmare is made to vanish and they are liberated from it, God willing. In order to do this, Jordan has exerted every possible effort to void the effect of the measures which the enemy adopts to wreck the kinfolk's steadfastness in the occupied territories by its policy of settlement, which constitutes the gravest danger to the Arab residents and their historical rights in this dear part of the holy Arab land.

The Zionist plan and its consequences could not have been hidden from anyone in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. We have always moved to confront this plan, armed with a deep national sentiment and a sharp-eyed pan-Arab viewpoint. We have worked together in past years, realizing the dimensions of the hostile design and its consequences that harm all of us. We were able to put an end to some of its negative consequences through several policies and measures in various fields. In order to face the evacuation policy from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, we adopted well-known measures regarding the points of crossing over to the East Bank. The reason behind these measures is known to everyone. The kinfolk's response to and understanding of these measures were a guarantee of the success of these measures and the continuation of the joint march.

Since the occupation's settlement design has been escalating, particularly recently, we felt that we needed to underline today some of these measures that are related to organizing travel between the two banks. We are confident that the alertness of our kinfolk in the occupied land and their realization, more than anyone else, of the occupation's objectives and designs would enable all of us to foil these objectives and designs.

Therefore, the following has been decided:

1. No citizen will be allowed to leave the West Bank except through the King Husayn and Prince Muhammad Bridges. Anyone who violates this will be subject to legal prosecution and administrative measures. Those holding temporary Jordanian passports will not be allowed to leave the occupied territories except through the two bridges.

2. No citizen from the West Bank or Gaza Strip will be allowed to leave for the east bank if the pass he gets from the occupation authorities includes a restriction that prevents him from returning freely before the expiration of that permit.

Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id Arrives in 'Aqaba

JN171249 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id arrived in 'Aqaba this afternoon on a private visit of several days to Jordan. His Majesty King Husayn, a number of Jordanian officials, and the Omani ambassador in Amman received him.

Prime Minister Receives PRC Delegation 17 May

JN171952 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Prime Minister Mudar Badran has spoken highly of China's firm stand supporting the just Arab causes and the Palestinian people's right to return to their homeland and restore their legitimate rights. Speaking during a meeting this morning with Cheng Zihua, vice chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and his delegation, the prime minister praised the clear vision of the Chinese leadership regarding the Middle East crisis as well as its continued condemnation of the Israeli aggression against the Arab territories.

The head of the delegation asserted that his country's support for the Arab and Palestinian peoples will remain unchanged until the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and the Palestinian people's legitimate rights are regained. He underlined the significance of further promoting bilateral relations, indicating that King Husayn's visit to China had left a great impression on the Chinese people and greatly contributed to bolstering the friendship between the two countries on both the official and popular levels.

The meeting was attended by the speaker of the National Consultative Council.

Belgian Economic Delegation Arrives in Amman

JN151926 Amman Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 May 83

[Text] Prince Albert of Liege, Belgium's heir to the throne, arrived in Amman this afternoon at the head of an economic delegation on a 5-day visit to Jordan. During the visit, the delegation will hold discussions with senior officials on the promotion of economic cooperation, trade, and the implementation of joint projects. The delegation will also meet with businessmen and industrialists and will visit industrial and development projects in Jordan.

The prince and the accompanying economic delegation were received by His Highness Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, the chief chamberlain; Walid 'Asfur, minister of industry and trade; Dr Hanna 'Awdah, director of the National Planning Council; and the Belgian ambassador in Amman.

King Receives Delegation

JN161740 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn received Prince Albert of Liege, Belgium's heir to the throne, and his accompanying delegation at An-Nadwah Palace at noon today.

Prince Albert of Liege conveyed the greetings of Belgian King Baudouin I to His Majesty King Husayn and praised the relations of friendship that exist between the Jordanian and Belgian people. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the various aspects of cooperation in industry, trade, agriculture, transport, water projects, and the exchange of technical expertise.

The meeting was attended by the prime minister, the chief chamberlain, the commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the minister of foreign affairs, the minister of industry and trade, the president of the National Planning Council, the Jordanian ambassador in Brussels, and the Belgian ambassador in Amman. Those attending had lunch with His Majesty King Husayn.

The Jordanian and Belgian delegations held their first session of talks this afternoon to discuss trade and economic relations between the two countries. The Belgian delegation is led by Prince Albert of Liege and the Jordanian delegation by Walid 'Asfur, minister of industry and trade. The two delegations will hold another working session in the Ministry of Industry and Trade this evening.

Al-Jumayyil On Signing of Agreement With Israel

NC171250 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] The first reaction to the signing of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement came from President al-Jumayyil who said during a meeting of the higher liaison body of the multinational force at noon today: We are not celebrating a holiday today on the occasion of the signing of the agreement. The true holiday for Lebanon will be the day on which the last foreign soldier withdraws from Lebanese territory.

President al-Jumayyil affirmed that what is reassuring is that the unity of the Lebanese people and their rallying around the government in its steps for salvation and the popular support was more profoundly manifested in the occupied areas than in the areas under legal authority. This became apparent in the flow of cables of support which have been received at the B'abda Palace.

President al-Jumayyil expressed the hope that the continuing contacts with the Syrian officials will lead to quick results. He affirmed that the future is bright despite the many obstacles which must be overcome.

The Italian ambassador said that his government asked him to convey congratulations to the Lebanese Government for the favorable results it has reached, and to convey the happiness of the Italian Government over its participation in the making of peace. He said that his government thought it was important to achieve a Lebanese-Israeli agreement for two reasons: First, to break the existing deadlock and second, to continue the process of peace. What drew the attention of the Italian Government was the unanimous Arab support, he said.

During the meeting of the staff of the higher laision body of the multinational force, attention focused on the high degree of quiet in the various Lebanese areas and the civilian situation in the Al-Biqa' in light of the Syrian and Israeli reinforcements.

The president also chaired a meeting attended by Prime Minister al-Wazzan and Foreign Minister Salim in which they followed up the stages of the signing of the agreement and the Arab tour of Ministers Halawi and Al-Bisat. They also discussed the reactions to Minister Salim's speech.

More on Al-Jumayyil Statement

NC172230 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil has stated that what is more important than the signing of the agreement regarding the Israeli army's withdrawal from Lebanon is the total evacuation of the non-Lebanese forces from Lebanon.

President al-Jumayyil said this when he chaired a meeting of the political committee of the higher liaison body in the presence of the ambassadors of the states participating in the multinational force. He added: The agreement with Israel is not an end in itself, but what is important is the implementation of the agreement and the withdrawal of all the foreign armies from Lebanon.

President al-Jumayyil said: The unity of the Lebanese people and their unanimity to support the steps the government is taking to liberate and save Lebanon is a reassuring factor increasing the determination of the government to firmly proceed with its efforts.

The president declared that the popular support in the occupied areas was more profoundly manifested than in the areas enjoying the security of the legitimate Lebanese authority and its influence. He stressed that the great credit in this goes to the insistence of the citizens in the occupied areas to adhere to their Lebanese identity and the national affiliation.

President al-Jumayyil expressed optimism about the future despite the obstacles which must be overcome. He also expressed his hope that the continuous high level contacts with the Syrian officials will produce quick results ensuring the full liberation of Lebanon and will deprive Israel of the excuse of keeping its army in Lebanon.

President al-Jumayyil and Prime Minister al-Wazzan thanked the representatives of the states participating in the multinational force for the cooperation of their governments and soldiers which prepared the atmosphere permitting us to reach our present state of affairs.

Al-Jumayyil Optimistic on Syria

NC172048 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil expressed his optimism about future Lebanese aspirations despite the obstacles which must be overcome. He expressed his hope that the continuous high level contacts with the Syrian officials will lead to quick results.

The president chaired tonight a meeting of the staff of the political operations room and the Lebanese delegation to the negotiations to make a general assessment of the situation following the signing of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement.

Spokesman Comments on Agreement Signing

NC171238 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Dr Dawud as-Sayigh, the spokesman of the Lebanese delegation, will speak to us about the signing of the agreement in Qiryat Shemona:

[Begin recording] An agreement has now been signed between Lebanon and Israel. We now have in our possession an international legal document to bring about withdrawal and ensure the departure of foreign forces from Lebanon.

While hoping that no obstacles will be encountered in the next phase to hinder the implementation, and — as the head of the delegation has said — everything depends upon the implementation, we see that by this great event Lebanon has realized a great national achievement because the liberation of territory is the most important national goal. Withdrawals will not only restore sovereignty, but they will also consoldiate Lebanon's independence and entity as well as strengthen its regional and international presence, and its effective role in the world. The credit for this goes to the sound Lebanese decision, which His Excellency President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil made the motto of the government's policy and the march of salvation. It also goes to the domestic front which was, and still is, united and cohesive behind the government, and to the negotiator who — in spite of the difficult negotiations and the fact that his country is occupied — has never felt that he was weak, but has always acted as being in the right, sensing the popular and national support given by all groups for the liberation of the land.

Hence the Lebanese negotiator has been capable of maintaining in difficult and critical circumstances Lebanon's options, its interests, and also its brothers' interests. We have had the support of our brothers and we also have had with us our friends led by the United States of America. The efforts of the U.S. representatives to the negotiations have had an effect not only in dovetailing the views of the two sides, but also in supporting the sublime values and principles in which Lebanon believes as a country anxious to maintain its affiliation to the free world.

The agreement will be put into force from the legal aspects after exchanging the documents of ratifications. [end recording]

Government Recalls Ambassador to Libya 17 May

NC172128 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2120 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] The Lebanese Government tonight recalled its ambassador to Libya [name indistinct] in answer to the recall of the head of the Libyan diplomatic mission in Lebanon.

The Libyan news agency said that the Libyan decision was taken in protest against the signing of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement.

Minister Halawi Returns From Gulf Tour

NC171309 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Ibrahim Halawi, the presidential envoy and minister of economy and tourism, returned to Beirut this morning concluding a tour to Gulf states to explain the Lebanese-Israeli agreement. He handed the Gulf leaders messages from President Amin al-Jumayyil and a copy of the draft agreement.

In the VIP lounge Minister Halawi told our correspondent:

[Begin recording] We believe that during this tour we have been able to convey the facts to the leaders of these states, and to clear any problems concerning the agreement between Lebanon and Israel.

We have been officially notified by the leaders of these states that they want for Lebanon what Lebanon wants for itself. They have been positive to the greatest extent. Likewise, we took the opportunity to convey to the Arab public opinion in the countries we visited the real Lebanese situation and the truth about the agreement under which we will maintain our Arab relations and safeguard our country's independence, territorial integrity, and the legitimate authority's control over all Lebanese territory.

Subsequently, we have been able to eliminate all doubts over [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Al-Wazzan Meets Delegation From Iqlim al-Kharrub

NC171305 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Prime Minister Shafiq al-Wazzan today met with a delegation from Iqlim al-Kharrub, led by Shaykh Muhammad 'Ali al-Juzu, with whom he reviewed the situation in the area.

Mufti al-Juzu said after the meeting that he briefed Prime Minister al-Wazzan on the security situation in the area and affirmed to him the adherence to the coexistence among all communities in the area. He added: We asked Prime Minister al-Wazzan to make the necessary contacts for preventing armed manifestations and for opening the roads between the area and the capital.

Reportage on Security Situation 17 May

Iranian Gunmen Wound Student

NC171301 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] In Al-Biqa' or, in the areas under the Syrian and Palestinian occupation, Iranian gunmen in Ba'labakk have opened fire at a student in one of the schools, and wounded him when he tried to hang a picture of President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil on the wall of the school. It should be recalled that this type of attack is repeatedly being witnessed.

Syrians Order Hospitals Evacuated

NC171317 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1244 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon has learned that the Syrian forces in Al-Biqa' have asked the doctors to evacuate the patients from hospitals between Shtawrah and Al-Hirmil. They transported a large quantity of serum and plasma to hospitals and clinics belonging to the parties and equipped them with power generators, fearing a breakdown in electricity supply.

The Voice of Lebanon has also learned that Yasir 'Arafat is still in the Al-Biqa' area inspecting the Palestinian positions. He held a meeting in Ta'lbaya, attended by representatives of the Palestinian organizations and the leftist parties. He is getting ready to visit the Palestinian camp in Ba'labakk and then proceed to the north.

Syrians Cut Road, Telephones

NC171335 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] The Syrian forces have cut the Duhur ash-Shuwayr and Btighrin Road. It has been noticed, at the same time, that telephone contact with Zahlah is cut.

The Israelis have cut the Al-Mukallis-Brummanah Road for Some time.

7 Israelis Reported Killed

NC171639 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] A large explosion occurred today as an Israeli patrol was travelling on the Sidon-Tyre road near the crossroads of the town of Al-Ghaziyah, killing seven Israelis and injuring others.

Tripoli-Beirut Highway Not Closed

NC171643 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Security sources have stated that the report carried by Radio Monte Carlo that the Syrian forces have closed the Tripoli-Beirut highway at the Al-Madfun bridge is not correct and untrue, and that the Beirut-Tripoli road is open.

Disturbances in Beirut Suburb

NC171556 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Some disturbances occurred in the Bi'r al-'Abid quarter in the southern suburb of Beirut this afternoon; a demonstration was staged from Husayniyat Bi'r Al-'Abid. When the security forces tried to stop the demonstration, the demonstrators opened fire. The security forces opened fire in the air to disperse the demonstrators. The Lebanese Army then intervened. The demonstrators threw a handgrenade at the army personnel, slightly wounding six soldiers, including a lieutenant. The person who threw the handgrenade took shelter in a building which the Lebanese Army encircled. The army then arrested him and a number of other suspects. Investigations are underway.

The Lebanese Army is now deploying intensive patrols in the area. The situation there can now be considered calm.

Ba'labakk, Ansar Strikes Protest Agreement

NC171637 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Ba'labakk today observed a general strike in response to a call made by the national movement in denunciation of the signing of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement and against regarding this day as a national day.

Also in protest against the signing of the agreement, the detainees in Ansar detention camp staged a strike. The Israeli occupation forces confronted them and this led to violent clashes. It has been reported that the Israeli forces opened gunfire in the direction of the demonstration [as heard].

Damascus Reports Demonstrations

JN171848 Damascus Domestic Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Al-Biqa' and the mountain areas in Lebanon today witnessed a general strike in protest against signing the agreement between the Lebanese Government and the Zionist enemy.

Popular demonstrations in the main streets in Ba'labakk denounced this agreement. The popular masses concidered this a national day of mourning.

The command of the nationalist movement in Al-Biqa' and the mountains sent cables to the Lebanese president, the prime minister, and the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies in which it denounced this humiliating agreement with the Zionist enemy and announced its complete rejection of the Lebanese Government's submission to the enemy's will and its acceptance of the Israeli hegemony on Lebanon.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese nationalist forces today pledged to confront the agreement and called for strikes and sit-ins to protest the signing of the agreement.

Some Lebanese deputies said that the Lebanese Cabinet session yesterday was confined to a statement read by the foreign minister and a recommendation proposed by former Prime Minister Sa'ib Salam.

The Amal movement issued a statement in which it called on Lebanese citizens to declare a strike to protest the agreement, and stressed that it is determined to confront and foil the agreement.

The Muslim Ulema Grouping also announced that it will stage a sit-in tomorrow at one of Beirut's mosques to protest the signing of the Israeli-Lebanese agreement.

Haddad Issues Call to Syrians To Evacuate

JN180825 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope 0600 GMT 18 May 83

[Text] Major Haddad, leader of free Lebanon, has issued the following:

1. Since we will shortly begin a new course for paratroopers and shock troops, those who will be joining the army of free Lebanon should mention in their draft contract if they wish to undertake this course.

2. We call upon the Syrian occupation forces to leave Lebanon so the Lebanese can rebuild their lives and live in freedom and dignity. This is because not a single Lebanese wants the Syrians to remain in Lebanon. In Al-Biqa', the Lebanese are praying day

and night to be rid of the Syrians and their filth. In northern Lebanon, rejection of the Syrian presence is clearly manifested in the many battles which the people of Tripoli have fought against the Syrian Army. Even former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah and his ally Rashid Karami effendi, who are under Syrian pressure, have rejected the Lebanese-Israeli agreement with reservation and without conviction. Everywhere in Lebanon, the Muslims supported the agreement through their deputies with an enthusiasm and unanimity matching, and perhaps even exceeding, those of the Christians.

Therefore, we once again call on the Syrians to leave Lebanon without any conditions, before the Lebanese Government officially asks them to leave and before Lebanon declares a war of liberation against them with the support of the United States, which will definitely intervene militarily this time on the side of Lebanon if it becomes necessary. The army of free Lebanon will also not remain indifferent, but will help the Lebanese Army in this liberation war.

The Syrians must understand that the Lebanese-Israeli agreement has been signed and will be carried out. This agreement will be the entrance to peace, not only from Israel to Lebanon, but also from Israel to all the Arab countries whether Hafiz al-Asad likes it or not.

Raymond Iddih Criticizes Withdrawal Agreement

NC171622 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] In a cable from Paris, Raymond Iddih [leader of the National Bloc] said that the government approved the draft agreement under the duress of the Israeli occupation. He called for the withdrawal of the Israeli forces on the basis of the 1949 armistice agreement and Security Council Resolution 509 which provides for an immediate and unconditional withdrawal.

Iddih said that the Chamber of Deputies should have studied well the provisions of the agreement before approving it, because it is related to a [word indistinct] of historical importance and could have great consequences.

SANA: Hawi Interview With ATH-THAWRAH

JN171137 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Damascus, 17 May (SANA) — George Hawi, the secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party, has stressed that the Lebanese-Israeli agreement and its provisions deprive Lebanon of the components of national sovereignty and make it an occupied country and a bridgehead through which the Zionist divisionist plans and the U.S. hegemonous designs will control the future of the Arab region.

In a comprehensive interview with the newspaper ATH-THAWRAH, published today, Hawi said that the dangers inherent in the Lebanese -Israeli agreement are perilous to the core of the pan-Arab issue and pan-Arab fate. The agreement, Hawi added, is not one of normalization of relations or even a separate peace; it is rather the writ according to which Lebanon will be handing its powers over to Israel.

The secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party affirmed that the firm and solid rejection of the agreement which Syria had expressed to the Lebanese authorities and to the U.S. imperialist envoys represents the strongest support for the Lebanese nationalists who are zealous over Lebanon's unity, independence, and Arabism.

He said Syria could not have accepted or contributed to peddling this agreement, because its security or even its presence as an independent state would be directly threatened by the Israeli military presence in Lebanon. He added that Syria is basically concerned with the fate of the Arab-Zionist conflict on the Palestinian issue in particular and the pan-Arab issue in general. The agreement aims, among other things, to give Israel and the United States an advanced position to eliminate the remaining obstacles blocking the bandwagon of capitulatory solutions to the Middle East crisis, namely the liquidation of the Palestinian revolution and striking at Syria's steadfastness.

Hawi pointed out that a bigger plot will proceed from this advanced position to eliminate the PLO from the equation, revive the plan of dragging Jordan into the negotiations on the basis of the Camp David accords and Reagan's initiative. The plot also aims at besieging Syria militarily and politically to force it to submit and join the liquidating course, or at attacking it if it continues to reject capitulation.

Hawi urged all honorable Lebanese to initiate a broad move and resort to all kinds of struggle to confront this plot and its results. He added the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people will respond to the nationalist forces' appeal and will confront this agreement, stressing: We are confident that this confrontation will triumph.

Hawi said that the heroic military operations carried out by the Lebanese National Resistance Front will intensify and will become more effective. The operations, he added, will be strong and large enough to reach Israel's agents inside Lebanon and those symbols which are playing the treasonous role. He emphasize that the popular uprising against Israel and its agents will intensify in southern Lebanon and inside the occupied areas in the mountain and Al-Biqa' to compel the Zionist enemy to withdraw.

The secretary general of the Lebanese Community Party, in his interview with ATH-THAWRAH, stressed the need for full coordination between the Lebanese nationalist forces and the Arab deterrent forces which are shouldering the brunt of the basic historical responsibility in defense of Lebanon's fate, unity, and Arabism, adding that these are the same objectives for which Syria had entered Lebanon.

Hawi touched on the talks that recently took place in Damascus between the Lebanese Nationalist Movement delegation and the Syrian officials, headed by President Hafiz al-Asad, stressing that the talks were fateful for Lebanon and the region. He said the Lebanese delegation's meeting with President al-Asad took place in a responsible, serious, and frank atmosphere. He added that the talks dealt with the dangers inherent in the agreement that are humiliating to Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab cause as well as to world peace.

Hawi said that President al-Asad reiterated Syria's unshakable and firm stand in rejecting the agreement and its determination to confront the agreement with all means regardless of the cost. President al-Asad, Hawi added, also affirmed Syria's readiness to support the Lebanese nationalists as they believe this would be appropriate and according to their conceptualization of the kinds and means of struggle.

Hawi said: We emerged from the meeting with increasing confidence that our just cause would eventually triumph irrespective of the sacrifices. This confidence, he added, has not only been strengthened by the overall, objective deep understanding of the development of the struggle, but also by the solid determination for confrontation and the tangible measures taken to guarantee the success of this confrontation.

Alluding to the question of consolidating the Arab ties with the Socialist bloc led by the friendly Soviet Union, Hawi said that the Soviet Union took and continues to take the frank and brave stands in support of our struggle on the Lebanese, Syrian, Palestinian, and Arab levels. The Soviet Union is also adopting the necessary measures to drum up our confrontation against the enemy's encroachments and provocations.

Franjiyah Attacks Agreement at Press Conference

NC180937 Ihdin Radio of Free and Unified Lebanon in Arabic 0727 GMT 18 May 83

[Weekly press conference held by former Lebanese President Sulayman Franjiyah in Zgharta Palace on 17 May — read by announcer]

[Excerpts][Former] President Franjiyah began his press conference saying: On this unpropitious day, we lost this world and the hereafter. We regrettably fell into the U.S. trap, and the so-called Lebanese-Israeli agreement was signed. What the plan by the notorious Kissinger failed to achieve — namely, evacuating the Lebanese citizen from his homeland and putting in his place the Palestinian — was offered today on a platter of gold to the friend of our U.S. enemy and to our enemy.

How many times did we call on the state to stop the negotiations because we were apprehensive about such an outcome. Regrettably, however, our calls went unheeded. We raised our voice just because we know that negotiations with an enemy who occupies our land under the auspices of the friend of this enemy would only lead to what it did — that is, the loss of this world and the hereafter.

President Franjiyah added: We cannot live isolated from our Arab brothers. Egypt preceded us in signing a similar agreement. Egypt is the strongest Arab state. Egypt lost territory in the wake of a war which Egypt launched against the enemy. Nevertheless, when Egypt signed its agreement the Arab reaction was to isolate Egypt and boycott it politically and economically. Egypt is a state which can bear the isolation financially because of its national resources and U.S. aid. As for us, can we dispense with our Arab environment economically or morally? This is doubtful, despite the assurances which some government officials have been making through the official information media to convince us of the benefits of this agreement. Whoever has been following the information campaign wonders: When someone who did something is satisfied consciously about what he did, will he put himself in the dock? This is what is happening today.

Yesterday the Chamber of Deputies listened to some of the Cabinet members. The Chamber of Deputies issued a recommendation. The official and some private information media falsified the recommendation and spread the falsification. In this case, we expect Prime Minister al-Wazzan to raise his voice against the official information media after the falsification was proven. Enough, enough and 77 times enough.

President Franjiyah continued: The strangest thing produced by the official and private information media was the live relay of the proceedings of the Chamber of Deputies' session, knowing that the Chamber of Deputies had taken a decision, out of its own free will to hold the session behind closed doors. These are some of the comments I have on some of what is happening today.

President Franjiyah concluded: Finally, I conclude by announcing my final position vis-a-vis this agreement. I — and in capital letters — will not abide by it.

The following dialogue then took place between President Fran jihah and the journalists:

Question: Your Excellency the President, will the Zgharta meeting be translated into an anti-agreement front?

Answer: I do not like the term opposing front. We have taken a position. Yesterday, we presented a copy of memorandum — which is in your hands now — to his excellency the president. It will of course be published tomorrow so the Lebanese can read it. Our front will be an echo of Lebanese public opinion. We are awaiting what will happen. We shall adopt an appropriate stand for every event.

Question: The Zgharta meeting was a prominent event in the local and Arab arenas. Do you think, Your Excellency the President, that division will take place, God forbid, after some Lebanese quarters have expressed opposition to the agreement?

Answer: I do not like to hear the word "division." We live in a democracy. We have freedom of thought and speech. If we succeed in convincing the Lebanese majority of our view then those who support our view will have to follow us. We are trying to convince the active or silent majority.

Question: Some information media referred to the possible formation of an opposition government after the signing of the agreement. What is your comment on this?

Answer: Radios and newspapers are free to say what they want, but until this moment, what has been said is not under consideration.

Question: Your Excellency the President, the agreement was signed amid disregard of the national and Arab position. What is your visualization of the committee stage in light of this signing of the agreement?

Answer: I have said it more than once that every rapprochement, and not just agreement, with Israel makes us lose this world and the hereafter. Today, I began my interview with you by saying that if the agreement is implemented, we shall lose the world and the hereafter.

Question: After 7 years Lebanon is still in a predicament. Is there an option other than the one Lebanon has taken to get out of this predicament?

Answer: Lebanon has been in a predicament for 8 years. The causes of the predicament is the Kissinger plan to evacuate the Lebanese citizen from Lebanon and to establish a homeland for the Palestinian people outside Palestine. In this agreement, this plan has been implemented with our will. What will this agreement give as long as its implementation is contingent on the withdrawal of all non-Lebanese armies. Will fraternal Syria — after what we have rightly heard of opposition to this agreement — withdraw? I doubt it. I am sure that it will stay on our territory. It is welcome because it is one of our dear brothers. But by this agreement — and by our signature on this agreement — which stipulates that the Israeli occupation army will not withdraw until the other armies withdraw from Lebanon, we have given this enemy legitimate grounds to stay on our territory. Logically, henceforth no Lebanese official can call on any Arab or international official to assist him in bringing about the withdrawal of the army of the enemy because the presence of this army has become legitimate on the basis of this agreement.

Question: Your Excellency the President, The United States was behind the plot against Lebanon. After 9 years, the United States worked for the drawing up of a Lebanese-Israeli agreement. Has the United States changed?

Answer: Yes, it has changed — but in favor of Israel. When we called for ending the negotiations, we took the U.S. presence into consideration because we were sure that the results of these negotiations would only be in favor of Israel. This is what happened.

Question: In your opinion, Your Excellency the President, why has Israel insisted on this agreement?

Answer: In order to isolate us from our Arab brothers. It wants us to live in isolation just as it did for many years. With U.S. aid, Israel can survive, but as long as we survive on the basis of our relations with our Arab brothers we cannot continue without them.

Question: Do you support a Lebanese-Syrian dialogue on the summit level?

Answer: Of course. But had we conducted such a dialogue with fraternal Syria first, before starting the dialogue with the enemy, we would not have reached the situation in which we are today.

Question: Your Excellency the President, do you support a dialogue between the government and Syria after the agreement?

Answer: This will not produce any result.

Earth Satellite Station Remains Out of Operation

NC171052 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Edward Abu Jawdah, the director general of investment and maintenance at the Telecommunications Ministry, has said that the satellite earth station in Al-'Urbaniyah is still out of operation as a result of the security situation prevailing in the area. This has caused delays in ensuring the citizens' international communications. International telephone operators are compelled to ensure communications with Gulf states via some European and American states.

Syria To Announce Anti-Lebanon Steps 18 May

JN171209 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1206 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] It was learned in Damascus a short while ago that Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, will hold a press conference tomorrow to announce the Syrian measures taken against Lebanon. Observers expect that the measures will be extremely severe.

AFP: Syria Says Rejection of Accord 'Irrevocable'

NC171428 Paris AFP in English 1421 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Damascus, May 17 (AFP) — Syria will refuse to withdraw its troops from Lebanon even at the request of the Lebanese Government and sees no purpose in meeting with a Lebanese working group formed last week to step up contacts with Damascus, an authoritative Syrian source told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Syria's rejection of the Israeli-Lebanese troop withdrawal accord signed in Lebanon and Israel today is "irrevocable," the source said.

He said Syria did not consider it "useful" to begin discussion with the Lebanese working group whose creation was announced last Friday by Lebanese Premier Shafiq al-Wazzan, "especially not after the signature of the accord."

The Israeli-Lebanese agreement has most hurt Syria, in terms of its security and its "historically shared interests" with Lebanon, the source said.

Syria intends instead to intensify contacts with Lebanese parties and political leaders opposed to the accord in order to "coordinate" actions aimed at assuring the accord's failure.

Syrian Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam yesterday said Syria would not allow the agrement to be implemented "no matter what the turn of events."

Monte Carlo Report

JN180909 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 May 83

[Text] An authoritative Syrian source has told AFP that Syria will not withdraw its forces from Lebanon even if it was asked to do so by the Lebanese Government. The source added that Damascus believes there is no need for conducting consultations with the Lebanese working delegation that was recently formed to intensify contacts with Syria at the highest level.

SANA: Syria Unwilling To Receive Philip Habib

JN180811 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0807 GMT 18 May 83

[Text] Damascus, 18 May (SANA) — An information source has stated the following in response to a question by newsmen:

It has been decided not to receive U.S. envoy Philip Habib in Syria because there is nothing to discuss with him, and because he is one of the U.S. politicians most hostile to the Arabs and their issues.

Newspapers View Lebanese-Israeli Agreement

TISHRIN Commentary

JN180756 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0345 GMT 18 May 83

[Press review]

[Text] In an editorial headlined: "Why Did Syria Reject the Agreement?" TISHRIN writes: It has been established from the declared provisions of the agreement that the Lebanese Administration had anti-Lebanese and anti-Arab intentions during the [tripartite Lebanese-Israeli-U.S.] negotiations and played a two-faced role against the Lebanese people and the Arab nation when it falsely said that it was keen to preserve the Arab sovereignty, will, and affiliation — along with its commitments and ties.

The agreement was completely void of all these noble and basic values, making no emphasis on the sovereignty, or Arab affiliation, or commitments — a matter that runs completely counter to the principled conditions and foundations on which Lebanon was established as a state over the past 40 years. The agreement was built on the national, popular, and demographic imbalance created by the invasion. The Israeli invasion has also set up institutions on denominational and repressive factors to monopolize the political decision. These institutions succeeded in depriving the Lebanese people of their right to reject the agreement and its provisions.

More clearly, the invasion was a means to consolidate the absolute power of the Phalangist Party in all institutions and to wipe out the nationalist and progressive forces and deprive them of the right to make decisions. Thus, the agreement was prepared and approved by Phalangist institutionsthat were created by the occupation and were used in achieving the agreement and ensuring this false legitimacy.

Continuing, TISHRIN says: Syria had warned against this kind of sectarian persecution in Lebanon. It is the same persecution for which Syria entered Lebanon to stop its implementation against the Christians in 1976. Syria put its national reputation and its mounting pan-Arab prestige at stake [rahanat] to revoke recording a serious precedence in sectarian persecution in contemporary history that would harm Arabism. Syria was faithful to its principles and will continue to be so to prevent the emergence of such persecution which could occur in any Arab land, particularly in Lebanon.

This kind of persecution was applied again in 1983 through the imposition of a humiliating agreement on Lebanon in favor of the United States and Israel and against the wishes of the overwhelming majority of the Lebanese people, whose will and effective role have been forcibly hindered, thus making it possible for the agreement to be signed by one Lebanese party — the

Phalangist Party — and Israel. The Phalangist Party cannot represent the Lebanese people nor can it defend their interests. Legitimacy dictates that there should have been a referendum on the agreement so all the people could have their say on this agreement. The agreement should not be made by a decision by a government which is the baby and fruit of the invasion.

TISHRIN adds: This is not Lebanon, the Arab, Christian, and Mulsim Lebanon that has approved the agreement — the government or the Chamber of Deputies. Because the same repressive structure is governing these institutions in Lebanon. If the Phalangists in Lebanon want to cancel Lebanon's Arabism, sense of affiliation, history, and fateful ties with the Arabs, as well as Arab geo-politics, this would not be Lebanon. Nobody is entitled to cancel Lebanon's Arab affiliation, because the objective, geographical, historical, and fateful facts come before all other considerations, intentions, and wishes.

Let them [Phalangists] be well aware of what it would mean if they lose all the Arabs and win Israel. Let them know what it would mean if recklessness dominates their minds. Nobody can rescue them from their fate when they revoke their Arabism and throw themselves into Israel's lap. Israel cannot be the economic, cultural, social, and political alternative. They derive their presence from the Arabs and cannot exist far removed from the Arabs.

In conclusion, TISHRIN says: We want to reiterate that the agreement will symbolize national and sectarian persecution in Lebanon. This persecution should be wiped out at once. We will not allow it to continue. Syria will honor its commitments and pledges made to the Lebanese people — all the Lebanese people and their nationalist forces — which reject the agreement. They will find out that the agreement will fail during implementation, and we have the adequate means to undermine it. The U.S. scheme to Zionize Lebanon will fail.

AL-BA'TH Commentary

JN170935 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Under the headline "The Deal and Lebanese National Responsibility," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: It was not at all surprising that the Zionist Knesset and the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies should endorse, on the same day and with the same enthusiasm, the agreement that the United States has imposed on Lebanon through its Secretary of State George Shultz, to contain the Lebanese national will as part of a fierce U.S. onslaught aimed at dominating the entire Arab region in the interest of the U.S.-Zionist plan and completely controlling the Arab nation's future for generations.

Also, it was not surprising that this hasty parliamentary endorsement took place, especially after we had disclosed this agreement's negative aspects and drawn attention to the danger to Lebanon's security, our security, and the Arab nation's interest. It was not surprising after the Lebanese forces and nationalist had repeatedly called on the Lebanese authority to consider the national and pan-Arab interest before Lebanon sinks in the mire of this conspiratorial agreement, which will place the Lebanese future under Israel and turn an Arab state, whose absolute sovereignty has been recognized by the world, into a Zionist protectorate and a bridge for containing Syria without any acceptable justification.

We are not concerned with the Knesset endorsement, because it came as an endorsement of a large Zionist gain which, according to enemy Chief of Staff Levi, Israel did not expect. What concerns us is the Lebanese approval, which, according to Lebanese Chamber of Deputies sources, was unanimous. It is unanimous approval of a deliberate deal under which the Lebanese authority will relinquish its sovereignty and the independence of its national decision as well as its legitimacy as a representative of the Lebanese people in Lebanon.

AL-BA'TH adds: When matters become so dangerous to the homeland and the citizens, and the violation of sovereignty and independence become an established fact, legitimacy will automatically shift from the government to the people, who will become the owners of the national decision; the national personages will become the real representatives of the homeland to determine its destiny and future.

All the events in Lebanon took place under two apparent occupations; the Zionist military occupation and the U.S. political occupation, supported by the military forces stationed on the Lebanese coast or in the Zionist military camp. For this reason, we cannot accept what has happened as something natural or as a Lebanese option approved by the Lebanese masses as something useful. Proof of this lies in the fact that the Lebanese masses outside the fist of occupation have rejected the capitulatory contract and called for undermining it by all means.

The approval of Shultz' agreement is a Lebanese authoritative measure, which deprives this authority of its legitimacy and undermines its capability and qualification for leading the Lebanese people during these critical times; it makes it a partner in an apparent collusion being carried out by the United States in cooperation with the racist Zionist base. We in Syria have repeatedly announced that such an agreement constitutes a great danger to the Arab interests and Lebanese and Syrian security. We reaffirm our support for the Lebanese forces and national personages and we will do everything possible to undermine Shultz' agreement, from which no opponent to the people's will, regardless of rank, can escape.

CP Statement on Lebanese-Israeli Agreement

JN170726 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0315 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Damascus — The Political Bureau of the Syrian Communist Party Central Committee has condemned the Lebanese-Israeli agreement, emphasizing that the grave dangers inherent in the agreement would harm Lebanon, Syria, and the Arab homeland.

In a statement issued yesterday, the Political Bureau expressed its firm support for Syria's stand, which struggler President Hafiz al-Asad outlined when he declared his opposition to the agreement and called for struggle to undermine the agreement.

The statement described the agreement as a writ of submission imposed on Lebanon by force and by overt direct pressures brought to bear by the United States, which is working hard to impose its hegemony on the region.

The statement also condemned the imperialist-Zionist plotting and the provocative threats and statements leveled by the U.S. secretary of defense against Syria because of its rejection of the agreement and confrontation of all the conspiratorial schemes.

State Minister's Press Conference Postponed

JN172049 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2039 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] It has been learned from informed sources in Damascus that the press conference that was to be held tomorrow by Faruq ash-Shar', minister of state for foreign affairs, in which he was to announce Syria's measures against Lebanon, has been postponed until the day after tomorrow, Thursday.

In view of these developments, observers believe that despite the public announcements that have been issued in Damascus so far, the door for a Beirut-Damascus dialogue has not been closed yet.

Syria Denies Closing Roads in Lebanon

JN171818 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1802 GMT 17 May 83

[Telephone dispatch by Radio Monte Carlo Damascus correspondent Louis Faris — live]

[Text] A senior Syrian military official has responded to a question by our radio on the authenticity of reports that Syrian forces in Lebanon have closed roads there and that the telephone and telex lines were cut off between the area which is controlled by the Syrian Army in Lebanon and the rest of the country. The senior Syrian officials denied these reports categorically and strongly and said that no such thing has happened. He said these reports are part of the intense media campaign against Syria and its pan-Arab stand.

On measures that might be taken by Syria, the official said:When there are measures we will announce them in due course. We have no secrets.

VOL: Clashes Reported in Aleppo; 15 Killed

NC161854 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] Following months of inactivity, the Muslim Brotherhood have resumed their activities in more than one place — particularly in the city of Aleppo — in the Ba an-Nayrab and al-Kallasah quarters. In the past 2 days, gunfire was directed at a special forces' unit, killing one soldier and injuring a number of its members. Immediately afterward, several special forces units cordoned off the area with tanks and vehicles and exchanged fire with armed men who went into the buildings there. The tanks shelled two buildings in which Muslim Brotherhood members took shelter, after warning them through loudspeakers. Both buildings were completely destroyed with the people inside. It is estimated that 15 people were killed, including women and children.

Syria To Back Lebanese Nationalist Movement

JN171420 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 May 83

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, the Lebanese nationalist [al-wataniyah] forces have all taken one line. They affirm that capitulation to Israel is rejected by the Lebanese and the Arabs and that the sides participating in this Israeli peace are the very ones that called in the Israeli army and rejoiced in the destruction of the Lebanese homeland. This is because it gave them authority and influence, which they sought to achieve through all their hostile practices against Lebanon — the land and the people.

The question now is, what is the difference between the one who cooperated with Israel before invading Lebanon and destroying its towns and villages and the one who made the Lebanese-Israeli agreement a national [wataniyah] demand? Lebanese national unanimity is the one who cooperated with Israel and is not different from the one that signed the document humiliating Lebanon. It is the same side. In its policy, this side does not harbor any love for Lebanon or amity and respect for its people. Therefore, the contradiction which led the Lebanese situation to a civil war still exists. In fact, those who created the contradiction are now trying to exacerbate it through the dominant influence, which they have obtained through the strength of the Israeli invasion army and their indulgences in serving the U.S. objective of dominating the entire Arab region.

This new situation in Lebanon, which seeks the subjugation of the Lebanese people in the interest of the United States and Israel, has become the motive for a more general Lebanese battle, consecrating the Lebanese people's patriotism, which has been tangibly expressed through the rejection of the agreement of subjugation with the Zionist enemy. Since the majority of the Lebanese are against undermining Lebanon's independence and unity and also against the domination of the majority by the minority, this means that the agreement and peace with Israel is taking place against the wish of the Lebanese and under circumstances in which the Israeli occupation of Lebanon facilitated the imposition of trusteeship on the Lebanese people and their ambitions through a group that is essentially allied with Israel against everything that is Lebanese.

The statements of the leaders of the nationalist movement in Lebanon underscore one fact; namely, the agreement with Israel is null and void and those who succumbed to this agreement and were forced to sign it represent a homogenous minority group; one that hasonly recognized Lebanon's independence due to the personal interests it gains, and has only recognized Lebanon's Arabism due to the nobility it acquires from such an affiliation.

What is needed, therefore, is what is being emphasized by the masses of the Lebanese people represented by the popular nationalist movement. The Israeli occupation of Lebanon will continue despite the false propaganda uproar the agreement of subjugation presented as being in the interest of Lebanese unity. Every provision of the agreement will remain divisive in nature as long as the parties to this agreement are: Haddad, the brigade that Israel formed under the name of the civilian guard; the United States, which is allied to Israel; and the Phalangist militias, which dominate part of Lebanese territory.

For the sake of an independent Lebanon outside the slogan of victor and vanquished, the Lebanese Nationalsit Movement and its organ, which is fighting occupation and the partition partners, shall remain the side most proud of its national affiliation and most deserving of assistance and support. Dear listeners, through its sponsorship of the pan-Arab ideology and commitment to the defense of Lebanon's unity and independence, Syria finds itself a party on the side of the Lebanese people against their enemies,and a weight that affords the Lebanese Nationalist Movement greater ability in facing the danger as long as this danger isagainst Lebanon's Arabism, Syria's security, and, consequently, the Arabs' interests in the triumph of their cause.

Syrian, CSSR Officials Meet in Damascus 17 May

JN171513 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Damascus, 17 May (SANA) — 'Abd al-Qadir Qaddurah, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, received here today Stanislav Svoboda, CSSR deputy minister of foreign affairs. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed the aspects of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Svoboda expressed his country's desire to receive a Syrian delegation of experts to discuss the topics of economic and technical cooperation in the coming stage.

Qaddurah promised to send this delegation soon.

Syria Reportedly Blocking Roads Into Beirut

TA171407 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Syria has blocked all the roads from the territory under its control in Lebanon leading to Beirut and has severed all its telephone and telex connections. Sources in Beirut emphasized that the official border between Lebanon and Syria has not been closed, and the roads between locations beyond the Syrian lines on Lebanese territory and Syria proper are open.

The Syrians erected a barrier on the Beirut-Damascus highway in the town of Sawfar. The road between Beirut and Tripoli was blocked near the town of Al-Hulwah, 35 kms north of the Lebanese capital. No official explanation has yet been issued by Damascus. However, Syrian officials this week threatened to impose a land blockade on Lebanon if the agreement with Israel is signed.

Kimche Speaks at Qiryat Shemona Accord Signing

TA171156 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1017 GMT 17 May 83

[Foreign Ministry Director General David Kimche speaking at accord-signing ceremony in Qiryat Shemona — live]

[Text] When you first came to Qiryat Shemona some 4 months ago, you were served bread and salt. That is the traditional welcome we reserve for wanted and honored guests. The children of this town lined the streets, holding signs bearing the word peace.

Today the citizens of Qiryat Shemona and all the people of Israel welcome you again with the word peace, because peace is something we seek, especially with the Lebanese nation, for whom we have never felt any hostility or borne any grudge. It is truly fitting that here in Qiryat Shemona, which has suffered so much in the past, we have gathered to sign this document which ends the state of war between us, and which lays the foundation for a new era: one of peace and neighborly relations between our countries. It is also fitting that we have gathered here today on the eve of the Pentecost holiday, the holiday marking the granting of our Torah, all of whose paths are peace.

However, I must be faithful to the good citizens of this town and also give expression to their fears. They know better than all of us why we were compelled to enter Lebanon almost a year ago to eliminate once and for all the constant threat that hung over the inhabitants of the Galilee. When we sign this peace agreement today, we must recall the reasons that led to the "Peace for Galilee" operation and then to the negotiating table. And we here in Israel must remember the heavy price we had to pay to remove that military infrastructure that was established in Lebanon and dedicated to our elimination. We will never allow such a threat to be made against the citizens of Qiryat Shemona or any other place in our country. And we hope and pray that the clauses of the agreement we are signing today will help prevent such a possibility in the future.

We in Israel have proven our good faith and our desire to see Lebanon strong and independent as our neighbor. But what about the Syrians? Will they also act like us, or will they perhaps try to stay in Lebanon as an occupying power that together with the PLO continues to oppress and enslave its citizens? Here lies the test, the real test regarding Syria's and the entire Arab world's intentions toward Lebanon. We call on all those who seek peace in our region and peace in Lebanon to use all their influence to get the terrorists and the Syrian forces to withdraw quickly.

For our part, we guarantee that we will withdraw from Lebanon the moment our prisoners, missing in action, and the bodies of our fallen are returned to us, and the moment the PLO and the Syrians withdraw from Lebanese territory. If only that were to happen soon. The longer the terrorists and the Syrians stay in Lebanon, the more time that will be needed for Lebanon's reconstruction, and the responsibility for that will lie with the PLO and the Syrians.

To our Lebanese colleagues, I must say that we are full of praise and appreciation for President al-Jumayyil's resolve and perseverance in view of the Syrian threats and pressures. The fact that the Lebanese parliament approved the agreement unanimously is clear testimony that the Lebanese people favors developing relations with Israel. We hope that they will continue to stand firm in the face of those who prefer war to peace, and violence to stability — those who would prefer to see Lebanon torn and divided rather than strong and united.

I address the people of Qiryat Shemona and the entire nation of Israel and the Lebanese nation, with the well-known blessing — the ancient priests' blessing — that appears in the "Book of Numbers," in the weekly portion to be read in all our synagogues this coming Sabbath: The Lord will lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace [6 Numbers 26].

Shultz, Netanyahu Sign Memorandum of Understanding

TA172107 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] George Shultz and the charge d'affaires in the Israeli Embassy, Binyamin Netanyahu, this evening met in the State Department to sign the memorandum of understanding between the two countries in the wake of the agreement between Israel and Lebanon. The understanding stipulates that Israel will not withdraw from Lebanon if a simultaneous withdrawal by Syria and the PLO does not go into effect.

Jerusalem and Washington also agreed that the agreement with Lebanon is closed, and deliberations about it cannot resume due to Syria's opposition. The question of the supply of F-16 aircraft which was frozen upon the outbreak of the war in Lebanon was also discussed in the meeting.

Arens Interviewed on Occasion of Agreement

TA171636 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1505 GMT 17 May 83

["Special" interview with Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Ron Ben-Yishay and Yosi 'Abadi on the occasion of the signing of the agreement with Lebanon; date and place not given]

[Text] [Ben-Yishay] Mr Defense Minister: We will start with an update of the situation. In the last few days there has been talk about Syrian and terrorist preparations for war. Do we have a clearer picture today about the Syrian intentions?

[Arens] Well, it is the classic question of trying to move from estimating ability to intentions. There is ability — the Syrians maintain considerable troops in Lebanon, and they have been reinforced in the last few weeks. Additional terrorist forces joined the terrorists who were in Lebanon before. Whether all this is by way of a war of nerves, whether this is solely or exclusively meant to torpedo the agreement and scare the Lebanese, or whether they are considering violent actions against us beyond the aforementioned — we cannot say that for certain.

['Abadi] If the border heats up, how do we assess how that will be expressed?

[Arens] We do not know. I have just said that we cannot tell. Everybody knows that we have one of the best intelligence services in the world, but we do not know how to read Al-Asad's intentions. As is known, Syria is a dictatorship, and matters are determined there by a small number of people, sometimes perhaps only by one man. Therefore, we do not know, and will never know for certain how to precisely read his plans and thoughts. Hence, whether and what they intend to do — I do not say that they are thinking about it because we are not sure.

[Ben-Yishay — interrupting] The Syrians are the masters of brinkmanship.

[Arens] Yes, they are. By the way, this is characteristic of totalitarian regimes. They can do this better than democracies can. There is no free press, there are no demonstrations, and there are no appeals by the public, so they can do whatever they want. The Soviets are also involved in this case. I sometimes cite the example of Soviet involvement in Egypt during the war of attrition — there are a great number of analogies — when the Israeli Air Force shot down five Soviet aircraft flown by Soviet pilots over the Sinai. As far as I know, people in the Soviet Union never learned that such a thing had happened. That was a nonevent [last word in English], nothing was published about it. It is clear that in a totalitarian regime, whether Soviet or Syrian, there are more levels of freedom than in a democratic regime.

['Abadi] I assume that the possibility of border incidents is also foreseen. Can small-scale incidents lead to an uncontrolled escalation?

[Arens] If there is an escalation, I think it will be a controlled one because although we are a democracy — I have just said that it is easier for a totalitarian regime to control events, but I think that we also have a great deal of control, and I do not believe that we will let it get out of our hands. What is true is that we will not put up with a war of attrition. So, if the Syrians entertain any illusions that it will be easy for them to harass us locally, constantly, and continuously, that is an illusion and not true. If they start violent action, we will be the ones who will dictate the scope of those actions.

[Ben-Yishay] Sir, assuming there are no big surprises, what is your scenario for Lebanon in the next 3 months?

[Arens] I know that you are especially interested in knowing what will happen in the future. By the way, I am also interested. However, I must at once say that I do not know.

There is the famous saying of Sam Goldwyn that it is difficult to prophecy, especially about the future, and who knows what will happen in the Middle East within 3 months. I can only tell you what I hope will happen: We [have signed] a political agreement between the Israeli and Lebanese Governments. I think this is a very important political event. This is the second country with which we have signed a political agreement and we have a chance to reach peace relations with it, perhaps no worse or perhaps better — I hope better — than the current relations between Israel and Egypt.

The next question of course is: Will the Syrians withdraw? Will the terrorists withdaw along with them? This is the condition for the implementation of the agreement. Of course, there is another condition, and that is the return of our prisoners of war and missing soldiers. We do not know the answer. At this point, the Syrians are acting as though they will not withdraw. That is because they want to prevent the signing of the agreement. It may be that once they see the agreement is an accomplished fact they will in any case reach the conclusion that from their viewpoint it is in their interest to withdraw. However, we do not know that for sure. I suppose that in any case it will certainly take several weeks for the picture to become clear.

[Ben-Yishay] Do we have any idea about the Syrian withdrawal conditions? We have heard all kinds of things, such as their wanting a security zone and their own Haddad — Lieutenant al-Khatib — who would be in the Al-Biqa' area. Do we have any idea about the Syrian withdrawal conditions?

[Arens] The real and substantive contacts between Lebanon and Syria have not started yet, but I think they will begin almost the day after the agreement is signed. I can speculate that the Syrians, if they are thinking about a withdrawal, about evacuating the territory they are holding — and they are today occupying some 40 percent of Lebanon — before the Peace for Galilee operation, if I am not mistaken, they were occupying some 70 or 75 percent of Lebanon — are worried about losing their influence, their position of power. They have already lost a major part of their influence. It is a fact that before the Peace for Galilee operation, the Lebanese Government was truly a puppet government — a government that in fact did what the Syrians told them to do. That is not the case today.

So if they are thinking in terms of evacuating the territory they are occupying today, they will in any case try as much as possible to preserve some positions, some influence in Lebanon, so as not to lose everything. However, since their influence in Lebanon up to now was directly connected to their military presence, I presume that that will not be easy. So it is hard for me to imagine exactly what kinds of things they will want, but I think that in any case — and I suppose that they also think so — that in any case if they withdraw they will lose a great deal of the influence they have had in Lebanon over the past years.

[Ben-Yishay] Allow me to ask you a direct question. Have they already sent us a signal via the Americans?

[Arens] No, not at all. As we understand it, at the secretary of state's last meeting with President al-Asad, the Syrians neither welcomed the agreement nor did they give the secretary of state any reason to think that they would in fact withdraw and enable the implementation of the agreement. However, we know that Al-Asad is a very cautious man. We know him from past experience. He was also cautious enough not to close the door either, and not tell Secretary Shultz: We will not withdraw. Those words he did not say.

['Abadi] If, however, the Syrians delay their withdrawal for a significant length of time, what would Israel's reaction be? In other words, would we withdraw? Do you support a withdrawal to the Al-'Awwali River, or remaining along the current line?

[Arens] The situation will be different after the signing, since after the signing we will have partners, the partners to the signing: Lebanon and the United States. And I would say that if it appears that the Syrians will not withdraw, or if there is a delay and a protracted period of uncertainty — an unclear situation — we will have to consult with the U.S. and Lebanese Governments and at least try — and I suppose that we will succeed in achieving some kind of decision about what to do in such an event, what to do together, and how this decision will affect movement by the IDF, if indeed there is to be movement.

['Abadi] Which are the points in favor and against the line of the Al-'Awwali River as far as the IDF's presence goes?

[Arens] I would say that there is a great difference whether we withdraw or simply evacuate to the Al-'Awwali River — in such a case, there is every reason to believe that it would be taken over by the PLO and perhaps even by the Syrians. We would then be moving our current line of contact to the Al-'Awwali River — and a situation in which we make such a move in coordination with the Lebanese and perhaps even the U.S. Governments. In such circumstances, the area we would evacuate would probably be taken over by the Lebanese Army and perhaps even by the Multinational Force [MNF]. There is a considerable difference between both these moves.

['Abadi] That is to say that as far as we are concerned it would be better to put off a decision until such circumstances are created?

[Arens] You may say so, but I would say that if it becomes clear that the Syrians are not withdrawing from Lebanon and do not allow us to implement the area [as heard], we will consult with the Lebanese and the Americans. We may very well discuss the possibility of changing our deployment with them. In that case, the Lebanese and perhaps the MNF will take over the areas we evacuate.

['Abadi] What do we think would be the Syrian motive to withdraw? After all, there has been a great deal of talk about a significant loss of influence on Lebanon in the wake of a withdrawal. What would their motive be to withdraw? What kind of pressure can Israel or the United States exert in order to bring about such a withdrawal?

[Arens] We can try drawing the balance the way we think Al-Asad sees it. After all he is the man who will decide. I would say that the column in favor of the withdrawal does not look empty to me. First of all, the agreement between Israel and Lebanon and the Lebanese Government's request for the Syrians to vacate the area detracts from the legitimization the Syrian presence in Lebanon enjoyed over the last few years. If you remember, the Syrians frequently said that they were in Lebanon at the invitation of the Lebanese Government, and that is why they were entitled to be there, and that there was no room at all for a comparison with the IDF which, according to them, had invaded Lebanon.

The absence of legitimization for their presence will make it difficult for them, and they will be subject to the pressure of certain countries in the Arab world, those countries whose leaders will tell them: You have no right whatsoever to remain there. In addition, there is the strategic consideration. Al-Asad will have to decide what is better for him: Remaining in Lebanon along with the continued presence of the IDF in Lebanon — and we are stationed in certain areas that are strategically inconvenient for him, even people who have no military experience can arrive at such a conclusion — or, in contrast, that we should leave along with them. Also in this case, it is not absolutely clear what his preference will be.

['Abadi] In the near past, there was an Israeli security concept that it is better to have the Syrians sitting in Lebanon, because then their army is split and spread over a larger area. Why has this security concept actually changed?

[Arens] I do not know who subscribes to this concept. I can see certain advantages in it, but only specific ones — I would suggest that we do not forget, even for one moment, that the PLO's terrorist actions were carried out under Syrian aegis, and it is unlikely that the PLO would have attained the same ability to organize, the same ability to operate against us, and could have inflicted the same number of casualties on us as it did without that Syrian aegis. Therefore, the withdrawal of the Syrians along with the PLO forces from Lebanon is very important as far as Israel is concerned, and as far as the wellbeing and security of the Israeli citizens goes.

From the strategic point of view, it can be said that if we are faced with the threat of war with the Syrian Army, it would be better for us to have part of the Syrian Army in Lebanon, but I am not sure about this. In any case, I believe that every Israeli will probably agree that as long as we really succeed, the level of danger to the civilian population through the evacuation of the Syrians from Lebanon — that would be the best, that constitutes an achievement.

[Ben-Yishay] Your Syrian counterpart, Mustafa Talas, frequently talks about strategic balance with Israel — that is to say, a situation where Syria can cope with the IDF on its own. Are the Syrians really capable of reaching such a strategic balance within a reasonable period of time, and if so, how long would it take them?

[Arens] If the question is whether I believe the Syrians can equal the IDF's military ability, I think that the answer is absolutely not. They might attain the same number of tanks and aircraft as that of the IDF.

[Ben-Yishay — interrupting] And the same number of divisions.

[Arens] If they attain the same number of tanks, I assume that they will also attain the same number of divisions. However, to reach the ability to operate these means on a level approaching that of the IDF both on the personnel level of the tank crew, the aircraft's pilot, or on the command level of the battalion, the brigade and the division — I think there is no chance that they will reach it in the foreseeable future. In any event, our experiences throughout the years — including the experience of the Peace for Galilee operation — indicates this very clearly.

[Ben-Yishay] When do you assess the Syrians could reach a quantitative balance that would also be operational?

[Arens] I would say that quantitatively they are not far from it today, and they were not far from it before the Peace for Galilee operation.

[Ben-Yishay] Yes, but then some 1,000 tanks were stored in depots without crews to operate them.

[Arens] That is part of the Syrian strategy, that is part of the Arab — and not just the Syrian — strategy, to keep tanks in depots. By the way, that is not such a bad strategy. If you lose tanks in the war and you save part of the crews, you may use the same crews to operate unscathed tanks. I would say that quantitatively the distance is not that great. Therefore, I do not think it is all that significant whether they do or do not reach that balance. I also think that is also the reason the Syrians asked the Russians to introduce the SAM-5's, hoping that with the help of this surface-to-air missile system they would succeed in neutralizing the superiority of the Israeli Air Force, a superiority that they recognize.

['Abadi] How strong is the surface-to-air missile system the Soviets set up for the Syrians?

[Arens] That system has not yet been tested anywhere.

[Ben-Yishay] What are its components? Can you describe it?

[Arens] The system is based on the SAM-5 — a big missile and not all that new. Its electronics are presumably sophisticated or has become sophisticated through the years. By the way, this missile is the basis for the entire Soviet antiaircraft system and this is the first time that it is being stationed outside the boundaries of the Soviet Union. It slightly resembles the U.S. Nike-Zeus, and it was developed to handle ultrasonic fighters that were being developed in the United States at the time, but which have not yet become operational because their development has been stopped.

The missile has a long range of about 200 kms as such a system requires. However, these missiles have one disadvantage and that is that they are fixed site missiles. In the last few years we were worried about the mobility of antiaircraft missiles, that of the SAM-6's and the more developed mobility of the SAM-8's. In other words, the problem you face when you attack these missiles is that of finding the target. If you do not find them you cannot even try to deal with them. In the Peace for Galilee operation, the IDF proved that it knows how to deal with and solve that problem.

This problem does not apply to the fixed site system. On the other hand, these missiles have considerable range. They are surrounded by a very dense system of SAM-6's, SAM-8's, and ZSU-23 radar-guided antiaircraft tanks which protect them.

[Ben-Yishay] You mean to say that around the SAM-5 sites there are sites protecting....

[Arens — interrupting] They are an integral part of these systems. Therefore, I would not describe the problem of dealing with such a system as easy, but by the same token, I would not say that it is an impossible mission.

[Ben-Yishay] What is the talk about communications links connecting this system with the Soviet Union? Why do they need to connect it to the Soviet Union?

[Arens] First of all, this system is manned by Soviets.

[Ben-Yishay] Exclusively?

[Arens] Exclusively.

[Ben-Yishay] Is it true that the Syrian defense minister could not enter the area where they are stationed?

[Arens] I cannot tell you that. However, even if I knew I could not tell you and I do not know. The system is exclusively manned by Soviets. There is a relatively large force of over 1,000 people that not only mans the SAM-5's but also the SAM-6's, SAM-8's, and ZSU-23's — the entire system connected to the defense of those sites. Hence, I think it is clear that not only the forces manning the antiaircraft system but the other Soviet forces in Syria, the large army of advisers, need close and direct communications with their bosses in the Kremlin who have to give them orders. Therefore, they also have a rather large liaison unit.

['Abadi] Are there any Soviet pilots in Syria, to the best of our knowledge?

[Arens] There are no aircraft flown by Soviets in the Syrian Air Force, at least not at this stage.

['Abadi] Are there any fears about a direct confrontation between Soviets, regardless of their mission in Syria, and our forces?

[Arens] It may be possible if there is a confrontation between us and the Syrians, because the Soviet advisers are stationed throughout the Syrian Army, Air Force, and Navy in addition to the missile sites with a large number of Soviet operators, both officers and soldiers.

[Ben-Yishay] Would you say that the Soviets took up control of Syria's antiaircraft defense?

[Arens] I would not say that. As you know, the Syrians have a large antiaircraft army and it still exists in spite of the casualties it suffered in the Peace for Galilee Operation. It is deployed in Syria, not in Lebanon, in various areas, and it is operated by the Syrians. Hence, I would not say that the Soviets simply took upon themselves the defense of the Syrian skies. However, they took part of this mission upon themselves — a considerable part of this mission.

['Abadi] Do we have any assurance or any other indication that the United States may exert counterpressure in the event the Syrians strive to heat up the border?

[Arens] Look, we are a people which always assesses the worst situations, even the very worst ones. Anybody who has ever dealt with system analysis knows that one must do that, to examine what is the worst thing that might happen. Therefore, this is not the first time that I've heard about this concern that we may expect pressure from the Americans, that the agreement we signed is not the final word, and that they will yet come to us and ask us to reopen the agreement and give up on this or that point. Well, I would not say that this is unlikely but I would say that it is inconceivable at this stage.

On the one hand, this is an agreement signed by three parties, including the United States. We all heard U.S. Secretary of State Shultz' remarks that the implementation of this agreement depends on the departure of the Syrian Army and the PLO units from Lebanon. Therefore, to expect him to go back on all that, and to have him return to us and say: Everything we said and signed does no longer exist, we expect further concessions from you....

['Abadi] Perhaps cosmetic concessions.

[Arens] I would be very surprised if that happened. I would also say that Secretary of State Shultz as I have come to know him is not a man who would easily go back on his word.

[Ben-Yishay] In addition to the agreement, I understand that written understandings have been signed with the Americans. What did they deal with?

[Arens] You probably understand that if there are written understandings which have not been published, this is not the forum to publicize them.

[Ben-Yishay] Mr Arens: At one time President Nixon put the U.S. Army on alert to threaten the Russians, lest they be tempted to intervene in the Middle East after the Yom Kippur war. Can we expect the same kind of cover and assistance from the Americans also today?

[Arens] I think that the Americans will not stand idly by if there is a threat of physical intervention by Russian forces in the region. I think they will do everything possible — and they may have already done so — to deter the Russians from doing such a thing.

['Abadi] With your permission, how does the Soviet intervention in Syria affect Syrian moves? Does it encourage the Syrians to heat up the border or does it restrain them?

[Arens] I think the Syrians regard the Soviet intervention as a safety net, as something insuring them against catastrophic situations which could have happened without this Soviet support and presence. This feeling may even encourage them to certain actions because they feel confident. They may feel that they can drag the Russians into intervening and, as a result, they may take this or another initiative. However, I imagine that if the Russians are not interested in violent actions in the field — and I am not sure that they are interested in that, I would be inclined to believe that they are not, since it entails many dangers for them — I think that they will or may already have found the way to issue a clear signal to the Syrians to that effect.

[Ben-Yishay] Mr Arens: We have recently come across some political and apolitical groups of mothers and soldiers calling on Israel to get out of Lebanon in order to put an end to our casualties there. What is your attitude toward those groups and what do you say to those mothers?

[Arens] I have great understanding for those mothers, but I do not think that this is a positive phenomenon, and it might even cost us a dear price. We live in the Middle East. When I was the ambassador in the United States, I used to say: The Middle East is not the Midwest in the United States. The Middle East is a tragedy-bound area and who knows it better than us — we have been living here for 100 years since the beginning of the return to Zion. The Arab countries are totalitarian, they are societies with a long-standing tradition of fanaticism and intolerance which are not only directed against Israel. The Iraqis are fighting against North Yemen — tomorrow the Syrians may fight the Jordanians, and so on and so forth. In order to live here we must be capable of defending ourselves.

We saw what happens to someone incapable of defending itself. Look at Lebanon. There were apparently no legitimate claims against Lebanon. Lebanon's guilt was that it was a new country.

[Ben-Yishay] So what do you tell all those mothers....

[Arens — interrupting] I am getting there. If we exist — and we do exist — it is only because we are strong, because we can and are capable of defending ourselves. If the other side even for one second thought that we were incapable of defending ourselves, that our willingness to sacrifice ourselves, that the devotion characteristic of the State of Israel since its inception no longer existed or was about to disappear — that would be the beginning of our end.

It may very well be that someone is trying to start a new security theory in favor of sacrifice and mobilization only on the condition that it remains within the boundaries of the state. I think that such a theory has no foundations. It is very unwise to say: We are ready to fight only up to this line, and whatever happens beyond this line simply does not interest us and we are not ready to touch it. We faced a similar situation before the Peace for Galilee Operation: Beyond our lines there were dozens of armed PLO men and there were hundreds of cannon barrels and Katyusha launchers which shelled the Galilee. We were then confronted with the problem of who would be ready to continue living in the Galilee, and whether any mother would be ready to let her children live in the Galilee.

Therefore, as I said, I have great understanding for their concern. However, at the same time, it is a matter of life or death for us — that willingness to protect ourselves and make sacrifices until the line called the Israeli border and beyond that, if necessary. This is not the first time that it happened. We suffered casualties in the Sinai campaign, in the war of attrition, and in a long series of operations. This is our security theory and there is actually no other.

[Ben-Yishay] Mr Arens: In retrospect, if the wheel could be turned back, would you set out to the Lebanese war again today?

[Arens] Look, I cannot exactly answer your question because it seems to me that historically nobody can say whether he would do the same if the wheel could be turned back. On the contrary, I would say that if you were to ask the people who ran the war whether they would behave exactly as they did, I imagine that almost all of them would tell you that they would proceed slightly differently. Who does not learn from his experiences?

It is irrelevant whether you apply this question to the Peace for Galilee Operation, the Yom Kippur war, or even the 6-Day War. One thing is clear: There was no alternative to the Peace for Galilee Operation. A country cannot live with a situation where a large part of its population are hostages to groups of terrorists beyond the border with heavy weapons, capable of inflicting disasters on dozens, hundreds, and maybe thousands of citizens.

I would say: Just for a moment imagine another country in the world in a similar situation tomorrow — like France or the United States. The United States went through such a situation in 1916 on the Mexican border. There was a gang leader, Pancho Villa, and the Mexican Government lost control over that area. Pancho Villa began shelling and pounding towns beyond the border, in Texas. It did not take long before President Wilson ordered the army then led by General Pershing — who later became famous — entered not 40 but 400 kms and stayed there for 1 year and put an end to this affair.

Imagine that such a thing were to happen today to Israel, say on another border — on the Jordanian or Sinai border, God forbid. Would we sit idly by? Can a government which takes its responsibility seriously to ensure the security and wellbeing of its citizens put up with such a situation? There was no other alternative. I think that whoever says there was another alternative, that we could have not set out on this war, is misleading and has been misled himself. He does not understand the situation.

['Abadi] In this context, what was your impression about the soldiers' morale, their devotion, motivation, and dedication, during your tours in Lebanon?

[Arens] Staying in a place like Lebanon during the winter seasons — and I visited there in winter — is not especially comfortable. I think that I would have to search very hard to find a guy who would tell me that he prefers being there over being in Israel, in his own home. However, in general, I found a good army, and a good army means good people, good soldiers, officers, and commanders who do their job as best they can. This cannot be done without good morale. If morale is low, the job is not done properly.

[Ben-Yishay] There is another mini-problem in the Ash-Shuf area, and that is the Druze. The Druze there persuade the Druze in Israel to argue that we have to ensure Druze hegemony in the Ash-Shuf area forever, and that in exchange they will guarantee to us in Ash-Shuf the same situation we have with Haddad in the south. There are some Israeli Druze who even threaten to reconsider their attitude toward the State of Israel if the latter does not ensure the future of the Druze in the Ash-Shuf area. How do you intend to deal with the problem which has recently fallen onto you?

[Arens] There may be such Druze. I think there are not many of them. I actually had the possibility — the privilege — now, as defense minister — to meet with Druze soldiers in the IDF. As you know, there are Druze officers in the IDF. There are some among them with high ranks. There are among them officers who are considered to be very courageous, superb officers and I have no doubt that these Druze, the citizens of the State of Israel, are loyal to the State of Israel. And there is no problem of dual loyalty. So there may be one or two exceptions here and there, but I am sure that it is not true as a whole. We want to have good relations with the Druze in Lebanon, too, because we want to have good relations with the State of Lebanon and so, with all the groups of the Lebanese population. Lebanon is not like many Arab countries, a monolithic [last word in English] country.

['Abadi] Is there a Lebanon at all, Mr Arens?

[Arens] This from someone who is familiar with the United States — as you are I think, yes? — like me, we do not think that all the world's countries have to be monolithic countries. That all its inhabitants have to be the same race, the same religion. I know that there are people in Israel who would prefer Israel to be a monolithic country — that only Jews should live in it. I must say that I am not one of those, and very often a minority — a pluralistic [last word in English] society — is a blessing for a country, so it is difficult to say that in Lebanon to date the pluralism has been a blessing, but at the same time, neither would I say that the fact that in Lebanon there is more than one ethnic group, more than one religious group, means that there cannot be a Lebanon, and that the only countries that can exist in the Middle East are either a Sunnite country, a Shi'ite country, a Druze country, or a Christian country and there cannot be a mixture of those things. Here you have a proof; we have 600 — inside the Green Line — 600 Arab citizens....

[Ben-Yishay — interrupting] Six hundred thousand.

[Arens] Six hundred thousand, sorry. They represent 6 percent or 7 percent of the population.

[Ben-Yishay] Mr Arens: The balance of forces in Lebanon is a little different, more balanced....

[Arens — interrupting] Yes, in many ways Lebanon resembles the United States a little more, since there are many ethnic groups there — yes, not a problem of one dominant [last word in English] group and another group which is a much lesser percentage. There there are many ethnic groups, and in fact not one of the groups has an absolute majority and therefore a dominant situation. However, I think — we also feel from our contacts with Lebanon, that the Lebanese population, with all the sects in Lebanon, just as a result of that great tragedy that Lebanon has undergone over the last 7 years before the Peace for Galilee Operation — 100,000 Lebanese were killed — I think that half a million refugees fled from Lebanon, who already do not live in this area — most of them are in the United States and Europe — I think that there is an appreciable desire there today in that population to put an end to this.

A result of this is the willingness to work together, to bridge the gaps, to find a common language. Where all of this will happen is something nobody knows. I can say to you with confidence that we will do everything we can to help this process. The Americans will also do all they can to help this process. We may assume that the Syrians and the PLO and the Soviets will do all they can to disturb this process.

['Abadi] With your permission, Mr Defense Minister, let us move on to another problem which is disturbing or, to perhaps phrase it better, is on the agenda — the affair of the IDF appointments. Is the extension of this process, the process of appointments to posts — and today we were told about the appointment of Brigadier General 'Amos Yaron to the post of the head of the IDF Manpower Branch — nevertheless, the process is lengthening? Is this not causing a disturbance to the atmosphere in the IDF and perhaps to other negative phenomena?

[Arens] It does not have to cause this at all because I would also not speak in terms of extending the process. Anyone who uses this term apparently thinks in terms of a one-time action, one round, in which everyone moves from his chair and another takes his place, and afterward 4 years of peace until we go through that process again, that of moving the chairs. It is not so. The process of IDF appointments is a continuous one, it is a regular one. It also should be that way. I do not think that it is good to make the IDF undergo a shock wave every 4 years and move everyone from their posts and replace them, and so, what you are seeing and what people in the IDF are seeing is simply an extended — not prolonged, but extended — and continuous process.

['Abadi] Are you pleased with the prime minister's intervention on the matter of the appointments?

[Arens] I do not even know what you mean.

[Ben-Yishay] The appointment of the head of the IDF Manpower Branch was made after a talk with the prime minister.

[Arens] Ah. Look, first of all, I will tell you that I, at my own initiative, consult with the prime minister, and sometimes I inform him of appointments of people to senior IDF posts. I think this is only right. He is the prime minister. He is also a former defense minister. He knows the situation, knows the people, and I do not think that I would be acting correctly if I were simply to ignore him on these matters and behave as though I had no link with him at all. In the case of Brig Gen 'Amos Yaron, he asked to see the prime minister. I think he had a good reason to see the prime minister, to explain what was bothering him, and without hesitation I gave him permission for that meeting. I assume that if I had not, he would not have held the meeting.

[Ben-Yishay] What importance do you attribute to the findings of the inquiry commission concerning the advancement of the officers about whom the commission drew conclusions? After all, the commission is not a military one, and it related to a specific event, a defined one, which took place over more than 2 days. Why should its conclusions affect the advancement of the officers?

[Arens] The government decided to adopt the commission's recommendations and so I feel that it is my duty, as a Cabinet minister, to see to the implementation of the commission's recommendations in accordance with the report's written word, and also in accordance with the report's spirit.

[Ben-Yishay] Are you finding a common, good language with the senior IDF officers?

[Arens] I think so. Look, people say it takes two to tango, and so if you want to get an objective answer to that question, you should also speak with IDF officers, but I think so, definitely.

['Abadi] Do you enjoy good cooperation?

[Arens] I think I enjoy good and devoted cooperation, and I am grateful for this.

[Ben-Yishay] From the Defense Ministry staff, too?

[Arens] From the Defense Ministry staff, too.

['Abadi] Mr Arens: How do you now see — briefly, because our time is going to be up soon — your order of priorities in building up the IDF?

[Arens] The IDF is a large and broad army and it is difficult, clearly, to note down a list or a scale of priorities, to say this should be done first and this comes next. In fact, there is no small number of things that have to be done simultaneously, but I think we are interested in bringing the IDF to maximal [last word in English] efficiency. We have the resources to do this, because efficiency in the army, as in other matters, depends first of all on people, the people who use the tools. We have very good people.

We are also living in a period in which we have a relatively large advantage because we have an army, we have soldiers, who have both common sense and courage. This is a very strong combination. It does not exist in every army of the world. We are living at a time in which there is rapid technological progress, very rapid, in all fields, but of course also in all the fields connected with weapons systems, and the army is efficient — it has the ability to surprise. The army that can surprise is the efficient army. It is the army that is capable of implementing, which is the first to implement the advanced technology — not only from the aspect of equipping, but also from the aspects of the rules of fighting, from the aspect of organization quality [interrupted]

[Ben-Yishay] Are you hinting about command headquarters of the field forces?

[Arens] Ah, certainly not hinting. I am prepared to tell you frankly, we are going to establish a command headquarters of field forces and that is one of our tasks.

['Abadi] How urgent is that change in the IDF?

[Arens] Look, anything that improves the IDF's ability is urgent. I would say even, most urgent. And I do not — and, consciously, we will not even waste one day, but of course, every process that is connected with people, with metal [as heard], takes time.

[Ben-Yishay] There are two schools of thought about this, about the command headquarters of the field forces. One school of thought sees the command headquarters of the field forces as a sort of general staff of chief corps officers which coordinates the artillery and the armored corps and the infantry and so on. The second school of thought sees the command headquarters of the field forces as a sort of chief of staff of the ground forces, as there is in the United States. Which of these do you accept?

[Arens] I would say, neither one. I do not think that at this stage we are prepared for what we call an arm [zro'a]. That there is an air force arm, a navy arm, and we will also establish an arm of ground forces. That is not what we are going to do. On the other hand, I would say that our problem is also not one of another point of coordination. Our problem is to formulate some sort of organization framework that will supervise those things I mentioned: making the ground forces' action capability more efficient — the capability of reaching a combination [shiluv] because here the ability to reach a combination is one of the answers to reaching efficiency; not the only answer, but to work in a combined fashion — coordinated, efficient, of the various components of the ground forces — that is one of the answers, that is one of the problems, and one of the answers to that problem. There are also other problems. We want to do all this with the command headquarters of the field forces.

[Ben-Yishay] Mr Arens: To what extent are you involved in the deals of the party in which you are a member, Herut and the Likud? Do you have any time at all?

[Arens] Yes, I do not know whether these can be called deals, but I am a Cabinet minister from the Herut Movement, I am a member of the Herut movement, I have been active in the Herut Movement, and I will remain active in the Herut Movement. So, you are hinting, correctly, that today I certainly do have a problem of time and of a scale of priorities, but I feel a duty, also from the aspect of the form of administration with which we live, in which a minister is a minister by virtue of the fact that he is a representative of a party, to continue to be active in the party, to continue to preserve the link with the party, with the branches, with people who are, in fact, the public that sent me to the Cabinet.

[Ben-Yishay] What is the basis of your power in the party?

[Arens] I would not say that I have a basis of power, nor am I looking for a basis of power because I do not see myself as taking part in its struggles — in any power struggles. I feel that I must be linked with all the movement's branches, with all the various extensions which are in the movement, and I think that I am indeed in good contact with the movement as a whole.

[Ben-Yishay] That is to say, everything that is called the Shamir group, the Aridor group, other groups, you have no group of your own?

[Arens] I have no group of my own, nor do I belong to anyone of the groups.

['Abadi] And how do you look at the action of these other groups which are sometimes quarrelling among themselves?

[Arens] I think that people exaggerate a little in the description of the existence of those groups. I would say that there is justification to getting organized within a party if the getting organized is based on differences of ideological views. I do not think that there is justification for getting organized on the basis of this or that personal loyalty. There certainly is a point in this when you reach the period of elections and you have to choose who will be your candidate in the Knesset list, and then it is natural and right and legitimate that people try to organize support for themselves, but in my opinion, there is no room for that today.

['Abadi] Yes, in that sphere, in that context, are you concerned by the public opinion polls that point to a drop in the Likud's power?

[Arens] I am grateful for any public opinion that shows a rise and concerned about any public opinion poll that shows a drop, certainly.

['Abadi] And, as for those polls, do you also form the same impression from your contacts with the public?

[Arens] Look, I learned too much about statistics to be able to, to dare to draw conclusions from my own contacts. Yes, they are really very small samples and the polls, in my opinion — I am not prepared to believe every poll and I do not want to exaggerate the importance of the poll, but I would attribute more importance to a poll when I see that it has really been conducted scientifically than I would attribute to my own personal impressions from those scores, maybe hundreds of people with whom I have spoken over the last few days.

['Abadi] Mr Arens: You are at the beginning of your path as defense minister. What do you need to do to be a successful defense minister according to your own criteria?

[Arens] A great deal of strength is needed. It is a difficult post and an exhausting post with many worries and a lot of work, and so the first thing, if you ask me, is simply the physical strength to stand up to this task. So far I have it. I hope I will also have it in the future.

[Ben-Yishay] Thank you very much, Mr Arens.

West Bank Figures Comment on Lebanon Accord

TA171341 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 May 83

Text] West Bank figures support the agreement between Israel and Lebanon. However, Bethelehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has said that the safety of the Palestinians in Lebanon must be preserved.

The dismissed mayor of Gaza, Rashad ash-Shawwa, has said that the step that Lebanon has taken is good because it helps it to free itself from the occupation.

In contrast, the dismissed mayor of Nabulus, Bassam ash-Shak'ah, attacked the accord, calling it the continuation of the Camp David process and the Reagan plan, and said it is actually but an agreement among the United States, Israel, and the Phalangists. The three figures made these statements today, our correspondent Pinhas 'Inbari reported.

ALGERIA

Government Statement on Israeli-Lebanese Agreement

LD172006 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 7 May 83

[Text] Following the signing of the agreement on the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation troops from Lebanon, the Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman made the following statement this afternoon:

The situation in the Middle East witnesses a new development with the conclusion of an agreement on the withdrawal of the Zionist occupation troops from Lebanon. The circumstances are such that the conditions surrounding the conclusion of this agreement make it difficult to avoid the risk of introducing in the region additional factors of instability and increased precariousness prevailing there.

While reiterating its firm attachment to the strict observance of the territorial integrity and national unity of brotherly Arab Lebanon and to the imperative of restoring Lebanon's sovereignty. Algeria remains convinced that there can be no solution to the Middle East crisis without fulfilling the national rights of the Palestinian people. Any step taken while ignoring the Palestinian national reality would fail to provide a just and long-lasting solution and enjoy the approval and support of the Arab nation. While reiterating the common fate and destiny of the Arab people and its solidarity with the Lebanese, Syrian, and Palestinian people, Algeria once more expresses its conviction that only a mobilization of the entire Arab potential would enable it to answer the continued challenge to it.

Thus, Algeria remains entirely prepared for and firmly resolved to support a united action based on the Fes statement in favor of a genuine peace in the Middle East obtained necessarily through restoring all national rights to the Palestinian people and safeguarding the fundamental rights of the Arab nation.

This was the text of the statement made by the Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesman in connection with the Israeli-Lebanese agreement on the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Lebanon.

FLN Politburo Discusses Regional Situation

PM171524 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 13-14 May 83 p 1

[APS report: "Considerable Efforts"]

[Text] Algiers [no date given] — The FLN Central Committee Politburo met Thursday morning [12 May] under the chairmanship of President Chadli Benjedid, president of the republic and FLN secretary general.

The Politburo examined the political activities in the region and the efforts currently being made to strengthen relations with fraternal and neighboring countries and with friendly countries.

The Politburo noted with very great satisfaction the fruitful results of [Malian] President Moussa Traore's official visit to Algeria, which ratifies the fraternal relations which exist between the two countries.

It also noted with satisfaction the results of the official visit to Algeria by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, which gives a new impetus to Algerian-Spanish relations.

The Politburo also discussed important questions relating to the African situation and efforts aimed at harmonizing the African countries' positions.

The Politburo devoted special attention to the developments in the Mashriq situation.

Prime Minister Arrives in Tehran for Talks

For Tehran reportage on Prime Minister Abdelghani's official visit to Iran and his talks with Iranian officials, see the Iran section of the 17 May South Asia DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

LIBYA

Envoy Recalled; Lebanese Envoy Asked To Leave

LD171959 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1935 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Tripoli, 17 May (JANA) — JANA has learned that the popular committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has decided to withdraw the secretary of the Arab Libyan People's Bureau in Lebanon in protest against the Lebanese Government's signing today of the agreement of shame and humiliation with the Zionist enemy.

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has asked the Lebanese ambassador in Tripoli to leave the Jamahiriyah.

The People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison will submit the Lebanon file to the basic people's congresses so they may make any decision they want.

The agency also learned that the popular bureau for foreign liaison has submitted a memorandum to the Arab League asking it to carry out against the Lebanese Government the same measures as those implemented against the defunct As-Sadat for his committing the highest wrongdoing against the Arab nation.

Students Issue Statement on Revolution's Enemies

LD131127 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0700 GMT 13 May 83

[Excerpts] Tripoli, 13 May (JANA) — The educational conference at Al-Fatih University has issued the following statement:

The educational people's conferences which convened in an emergency session to look into the attempt by one of the agents to attack the leader of the revolution and who was recruited by

America have decided the following:

First, to assert the decision of the basic popular congresses and the educational popular conferences with regard to settling theaccount with the enemies of the revolution both at home and abroad;

Second, the educational popular conferences at Al-Fatih University have decided to carry out the death sentence on the traitor agent publicly in front of the popular masses;

Third, the educational popular conferences at the university havedecided to give backing to the masses of the Palestinian people who reject the capitulatory solutions and who decided to resist occupation;

Fourth, the educational popular conferences have decided to continue to expose the agents and the factions and to deport them;

Fifth, the educational popular conferences have condemned all organizations which are in collusion with American imperialism and Arab reaction.

Thus the student masses afirm their eternal stand by the historic leadership of the great 1 September Revolution and their total alignment to the authority of the masses. Forward to destroy the fortresses of reaction; forward to torpedo the bridges of surrender — the bridges built by the Arab regimes with the usurper Zionist enemy; forward to topple the symbols of America in the Arab region; forward to fight the battle of the popular revolution, which will be a flood that will sink the Arab region and remove forever the ages of backwardness and establish the society of the masses. Forward, Al-Fatih forever.

FLN Delegation Arrives in Tripoli on Visit

LD171209 Algiers APS in English 1014 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Tripoli, 17/5/83 (APS) — Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Politburo member head of the CC Permanent Secretariat arrived in Tripoli leading a high ranking delegation to the Libyan Jamahiryah.

In a brief statement at the airport he said his visit aims at reinforcing fraternal relations between both peoples.

JANA Cites Chadian Opposition Official Interview

LD151025 Tripoli JANA in English 0929 GMT 15 May 83

[Text] Tripoli, Shaban 2, May 15, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The foreign minister of the Chadian Government of National Unity Mr Ahmad Nour Adam [JANA spelling] said the attack carried out by the forces of renegade Hissein Habre last Thursday and which was repulsed by the forces of the National Liberation Army in the Ounianga Kebir region, resulted in the death of 300 of Habre's soldiers and the capture of 783 others together with the seizure of 16 heavy arms units.

In an interview with Bardai Radio last Friday night, he said the current situation in Chad is in favor of the Chadian people. He said the National Liberation Army of the Chadian Government of National Unity has taken upon itself, since its withdrawal from Ndjamena, the responsibility of liberating the country. He said the forces of the National Liberation Army are currently witnessing the final segments in this current liberation stage.

He added that (?the attacks) launched by the forces of renegade Habre in the Gourou and Ounianga regions and elsewhere were all failures.

Mr Adam said the Chadian people have isolated Hissein Habre ever since his entry together with his fascist clique into Ndjamena. He said Habre is surrounded from all sides and that the forces of the liberation army are fighing him in the central eastern sector and northern and southern parts of the country.

Mr Adam said the forces of the north will soon leave Ndjamena thus realising a victory for the Chadian people and other progressive and revolutionary peoples. He said the Chadian Government of National Unity is striving to hand over (?authority) top the Chadian people so that they may decide their own future.

On current contacts between Hissein Habre and the Zionist entity via the Mobuto regime in Zaire, the Chadian foreign minister said the Government of National Unity has declared on several occasions, especially at the Tripoli summit conference, that Habre is not only an agent but a dangerous and direct threat to Africa.

He added "We revealed since last September that trilateral negotiations between Zaire, the Zionist entity and Hissein Habre together with his clique have taken place in Kinshasa and that arms and military equipment has been arriving from Israel to Habre through the Mobutu regime. Hissein Habre is the creation of the Central Intelligence Agency of the U.S. Through him, the U.S. Administration is striving to implement its aggressive plans in Africa."

Mr Adam said that acts of provocation against the Jamahiriyah in the Gulf of Sidra and the alleged complaint lodged by Habre at the Security Council are evidence that the U.S. Administration is striving to undermine the Jamahiriyah's stability that frightens Reagan.

The Chadian foreign minister said Hissein Habre's allegations of the presence of a Libyan threat are totally baseless and are further seen as an attempt to internationalise the Chadian struggle and to provide the U.S. with a pretext for intervention in the region. In this respect, he said the Chadians alone are fighting the renegade Habre.

In his interview with Bardai Radio, Adam revealed that the Chadian Government of National Unity has information which confirms that Zaire is prepared to intervene in Chad. He said the National Liberation Army will confront Zaire as it had earlier confronted French imperialism, pointing out at the same time that Chad also has its friends.

On the forthcoming African summit conference, the Chadian foreign minister said the decision taken by Africa at the Nairobi summit conference should be respected. He said Africa should respect its commitments. Mr Adam pointed out that the Nairobi resolutions recognize the existence of an authority called the Interim Government of National Unity in Chad. This government, he said, is legitimate and Africa should therefore support it.

He said the Chadian Government of National Unity has the right to represent the Chadian people in the Organisation of National [as received] Unity. He said the Government of National Unity will attend the Addis Ababa conference to represent the Chadian people because it is the legitimate government of this people.

MAURITANIA

Libyan Foreign Minister Arrives on Visit

LD172223 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, Libyan secretary for foreign liaison, arrived in Nouakchott this afternoon. He will deliver a message from Colonel Mu'Ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the chairman of the Military Committee for National Salvation, President Mohamed Khouna Ould Haydala. The Libyan was met at the airport by Foreign Minister Ahmed Ould Minnih.

Replying to a question by the radio correspondent on the aim of his visit, Mr Al-'Ubaydi said:

[Begin Al-'Ubaydi recording] The visit falls within the framework of the contacts that brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great September Revolution, is having with leaders of the Arab countries in order to consult on the current Arab situation. I have come with a letter from the brother colonel to President Ahmed Khouna Ould Haydala in connection with this Arab situation, particularly after the danger that has been facing the Arab nation from the Zionist enemy and its [word indistinct] in the region. Therefore, I will be happy to deliver this letter to Mr President. I will also have consultations with my friend and brother, the minister of foreign affairs, on the Arab situation and about the African Continent, particularly the coming OAU summit. I bring the greetings of Brother al-Qadhdhafi and the Libyan people to the Mauritanian president, leadership, and people. [end recording]

SUDAN

Government Annouces Support for Lebanon Accord

JN181121 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1110 GMT 18 May 83

[Text] Khartoum, 18 May (SUNA) — President of the Republic Ja'far Muhammad Numayri has expressed the Sudanese Government's support for Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil and for the Lebanese Government and people in their strenuous and sincere efforts to re-establish peace in Lebanon — efforts which the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies unanimously supported yesterday when it approved the agreement according to which the Israeli forces will withdraw from Lebanon.

This came in an exclusive statement which the president made to SUNA today on the signing of the agreement yesterday between the Lebanese and Israeli sides regarding the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Lebanon.

In his statement to SUNA, President Numayri said that Sudan, while announcing its support, has received with pleasure the reports on the support to Lebanon by the fraternal Arab countries, foremost among which are Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the UAE, as well as other sisterly states. This was clearly pointed out during the press conference held in Abu Dhabi by the Lebanese minister of economy. These Arab countries strongly support Lebanon's unanimity and determination to carry out the agreement and establish peace.

President Numayri added that Sudan seizes this opportunity to recall what the Syrian regime announced upon the signing of the disengagement agreement with Israel in May 1974. The Syrian regime said at the time: What we signed today is not a peace treaty, but a step toward a just and overall peace. The president said that this regime is denying Lebanon this right now and is hatching plots to harm its security and stability.

In his statement, President Numayri stressed Sudan's appeal to the PLO, all the Arab brothers, and the world public opinion to stand by Lebanon at this crucial time when it is trying to establish peace, put an end to guardianship on its will and reconstruct Lebanon, the Arab oasis of prosperity and tranquillity.

General Command Issues Statement on Mutiny

JN181144 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1034 GMT 18 May 83

[Text] Khartoum, 18 May (SUNA) — The General Command of the People's Armed Forces yesterday issued a statement concerning the mutiny of a company [sariyah] from Battalion [katibah] No. 105 of the 1st Division [al-firqah al-ula] in the Southern Command. The statement says that in recent months, the company has shown signs of lack of discipline, failure to carry out redeployment operations ['amaliyat al-ghayar] and major financial violations.

The statement discloses that the company's external communications, which have been under surveillance, have shown that the company's soldiers have continued in their misguided ways in recent weeks to the point of disobeying orders. This has called for the adoption of firm measures against these stands to safeguard the homeland's unity and to uphold the armed forces' discipline, prestige and traditions for which they have been known throughout history.

The statement explains that military operations were carried out on the night of 15-16 May 1983 against the positions of this battalion [katibah] in Bor and Pibor. These successful operations completely settled the situation and led to the seizure of huge quantities of weapons, ammunition, and explosives in Bor. It was obvious that they were to be used in hostile action against the homeland and its unity and safety. The weapons came from abroad as part of criminal plans against Sudan. The statement points out that the investigation will reveal a great deal in the next few days.

The General Command affirmed in its statement that all citizens and foreigners in those areas are safe, that security prevails and that life is normal.

TUNISIA

President, Prime Minister Meet With Lebanese Envoy

LD172254 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] The president has received in audience the special envoy of the Lebanese president, Mr Baha' ad-Din al-Bisat, minister of water and electricity resources and cooperatives, and his accompanying delegation. The Lebanese envoy said that the meeting crowned a tour in Algeria and Morocco, and that he informed the president of the current situation in the Lebanese arena and conveyed to him the greetings of President Al-Jumayyil.

This evening Prime Minister Mzali had talks with Mr Al-Bisat about the situation in Lebanon.

Further on Meetings

NC171720 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Presidential envoy to the Arab Maghreb Minister Baha' ad-Din al-Bisat will return to Beirut tonight.

Our correspondent George Shahin, who is accompanying Minister al-Bisat during his tour, sent us the following dispatch:

[Begin recording] President Bourguiba began his talks with the Lebanese delegation's leader by saying in Arabic: We love Lebanon. I wish you success in evicting the Israelis from Lebanon. It appears that they have promised to leave.

Following the approximately 20-minute meeting, Minister Al-Bisat said: This is the last visit in a tour dictated by the conditions in Lebanon. We first visited Algeria and then came to Morocco. The tour ended with a visit to the great struggler. We briefed him on what is taking place in Lebanon and conveyed to him the greetings of Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil, the government, and people. We also acquainted him with the details of everything taking place in the Lebanese arena.

I can only praise the kind sentiments his excellency expressed to Lebanon, which has suffered much. As has been usual during the history of his long struggle, he provided us with facts and gave us advice. He expressed his admiration of Lebanese PresidentAmin al-Jumayyil and his full support to all steps taken by Lebanon, particularly because they were taken according to democratic principles, which Lebanon is eager to safeguard. He asked us to convey his kind feelings to the people of Lebanon and its young president. He wished success for Lebanon and expressed the readiness of fraternal Tunisia to held Lebanon in everything it seeks from it.

After this, the Lebanese delegation went to the Arab League building in Tunisia, where it was met by the League's Secretary General, Chedli Klibi.

Following the approximatley 40-minute meeting, Minister Al-Bisat said: The meeting with the secretary general was a part of the tour, during which we visited dear Tunisia, to give the secretary general a true picture of what is happening in Lebanon. During the meeting, we discussed the details of the agreement which Lebanon has concluded to restore its sovereignty and full independence through the constitutional institutions. We discussed the agreement in detail and briefed the secretary general on the situation and the arguments about the agreement. We explained that Lebanon is acting within the framework of democracy and through its institutions, and that it is exercising its rights, which nobody shares with it, particularly the right to self-determination, while safeguarding all the national and humanitarian rights.

At 1300 Beirut time, the Lebanese delegation went to the headquarters of the Tunisian Government and the Foreign Ministry in Qasabah in the center of the Tunisian capital. In view of the fact that the Tunisian Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Beji Caid es-Sebsi were at the parliament at the time to approve and ratify some agreements with the Algerian Government, the meeting with the foreign minister and the prime minister was postponed until 1630. A mini-meeting was held which was attended by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Mahmud al-Mistiri.

During the presence of the delegation at the Tunisian Government headquarters, delegation member Ambassador Ibrahim Kharma went to meet Palestinian official Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] but certain circumstances precluded a meeting between them. The meeting will now be held at 1600 Beirut time.

This is all we have now about the contacts which were held in the Tunisian capital. This is George Shahin speaking to you from the house of the Lebanese ambassador in Tunis. Back to our studios in Beirut. [end recording]

KENYA

President Moi Calls for Early Elections

EA171058 Nairobi Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 17 May 83

[Statement issued by Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi on 17 May during a meeting of the KANU National Governing Council in Nairobi, and read by Kanu Secretary General Robert Matano — recorded]

[Text] The National Governing Council of KANU met in Parliament buildings this morning, 17th May 1983, under the chairmanship of his excellency the president, Daniel arap Moi, and all delegates as prescribed by the KANU Constitution were present.

His excellency the president opened the meeting by welcoming the delegates and thanked them for keeping peace in the country. Then his excellency proceeded to issue the following statement:

"From the day I took over as the president of this republic, I have appealed for unity, hard work and being mindful of other people's welfare. I have always repeatedly emphasized the Nyayo philosophy of love, peace and unity.

"Wananchi [citizens] throughout the country steadfastly supported the Nyayo philosophy and worked hard on the land and on self-help programs. I am indeed very grateful to them.

"On the other hand, I have been concerned and very disappointed with the performance of some people whom I have appointed to senior positions as ministers and in the civil service. The service of some of those people on matters of interest to this country has been below expectations. At times, such people have conducted themselves in a manner which leads me to question their loyalty to me as head of state, to their government, and to this country.

"Because of the greed and selfishness among some unpatriotic people who are entrusted with positions, it has proved very difficult to eliminate illicit trade and corruption in the country. Their activities have contributed in undermining our efforts to reconstruct our economy.

"I am aware that some of these people have been playing some part in getting the external press to say some adverse things about our country. It is absurd that some of the people I have appointed to senior positions have outwardly pretended to be loyal to me and yet behind the scenes they have been using their positions to promote their selfish ambitions.

"They have even ignored the fact that the government has adequate machinery to maintain vigilance on their clandestine activities. I wish therefore to confirm that I stand by what I said at the Kisii rally on 8th May 1983 regarding activities of some people who are seeking assistance from their foreign masters to promote their excessive ambitions. I find it difficult to believe that such evil maneuvers are being played by people who regard themselves as Kenyans.

"The patience I have maintained since I took over as head of state of this republic has now been exhausted. I can no longer therefore tolerate working with such people and, from now on, any leader or public officer who conducts himself in such a suspicious manner will not only be required to resign or be dismissed, but will also face appropriate disciplinary action.

"I am determined to rectify the weaknesses which we have been witnessing in the government because of the conduct of these evil-minded people. In order to clean the system I have therefore decided that all elected leaders, including myself, will seek fresh mandates from the electorate.

"The revision of registers will start immediately and the general elections will take place in September 1983. Meanwhile, I will embark on an exercise of sorting out the problems within the civil service.

"Our security forces are loyal and vigilant. They are ready all the time to defend the country, the people, and the constitutionally elected government against any attempts to interfere with the smooth running of the government."

Nigeria's Audu Delivers Shagari Message to Moi

AB131534 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 13 May 83

[Text] The minister of external affairs, Professor Ishaya Audu, has delivered a special message from President Shehu Shagari to the Kenyan leader, President Daniel arap Moi. Details of the message are not known but they are believed to be connected with the forthcoming OAU summit scheduled for Addis Ababa next month.

Yesterday, Radio Tanzania said that leaders of the Frontline states which met in Dar es Salaam discussed issues affecting the OAU. Meanwhile, Tanzania is proposing that the Charter of the OAU be reviewed to provide for a simple majority of members present at any given summit.

Nigeria To Resist Changes in ADB Control Status

AB131011 Lagos International Service in English 0830 GMT 13 May 83

[Text] Nigeria says it will resist any arrangement that could endanger the controlling status of the African members of the African Development Bank [ADB]. The minister of finance, Victor Masi, made this stand known at the 19th annual meeting of bank governors now going on in the Kenyan capital. He said that undue advantage must not be taken of the fact that some African states were unable to make prompt payments of their subscriptions. Mr Masi recalled that Nigeria had withheld ratification of the bank's amendment agreement for a long time because it feared the bank might lose its African character of identity through amorphous enlargement of membership. The minister stressed that Nigeria would like to believe that the membership of the 18 non-African states demonstrated their implicit commitment to the economic goals and aspirations of the African Continent.

GHANA

20 Killed in Renewed Alavanyo-Nkonya Clashes

AB132216 Accra GHANAIAN TIMES in English 9 May 83 p 8

["From" Jubilant Atuwo Nkonya-Ahenkro]

[Text] More than 20 persons were reportedly killed last week in renewed clashes between the people of Alavanyo and Nkonya, near Hohoe in the Volta Region.

Police Sergeant Ndor, one of the leaders of the Police Striking Force despatched to the area to maintain peace and order, was reported to have been kidnapped by Nkonya warriors at Alavanyo-Kpeme.

It is recalled that 13 persons were recently reported killed during sporadic clashes between the two belligerent traditional areas over a disputed land dating as far back as 1921.

Briefing the "TIMES" here after his return from the bush to disarm the fighters with a contingent of soldiers an army officer of the Ho Medium Mortar Regiment said the renewed fighting started when some Alavanyo people allegedly attacked on their farms last Tuesday. According to the Army officer, the Alavanyo people inflicted severe matchet [machete] wounds on the farmers and managed to flee the scene of attack.

The Nkonya people, eager to revenge, besieged the Kpeme, Agorme, Dome and Dzogbedze towns of Alavanyo the following morning and took several citizens of Alavanyo captives.

Nkonya warriors defied the presence of the police at Deme and invaded the police station where they succeeded in kidnapping Sgt Ndor and threatened to arrest another policeman if their demand for the release of two or their people was not met by the following day.

The Alavanyo people managed to repel their attacks by noon on Wednesday and deployed reinforcements into the bush where intense fighting continued. Eye-witness accounts have it that the warring factions were followed by burial parties who hastily dug graves to bury fallen warriors as they advanced.

Meanwhile, a dusk to dawn curfew has been imposed on the two traditional areas. It is also an offence for any person or group of persons to be caught in the bush or found in a group of over five or to handle any offensive weapons or ammunitions.

Reinforcements of military and police personnel continue to maintain peace and order in the area whilst the search for the missing police sergeant is intensified.

The chief and elders of the two traditional areas have been rounded up to ensure peace and tranquillity.

Professionals' Ultimatum to PNDC Criticized

AB150729 Accra Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 14 May 83

[Press Review]

[Excerpt] The Association of Recognized Professional Bodies has issued an ultimatum to the Provisional National Defense Council [PNDC] to hand over power to a presidential commission which will return the country to constitutional rule. Commenting on it, the PEOPLE'S DAILY GRAPHIC concedes that everyone has the right to free speech. But the paper says it is sad when distinguished people resort to distortions of facts which, according to the GRAPHIC, do not even impress the most hungry Ghanaian.

On the question of alleged [words indistinct] violence on the government-owned media by secretaries of information, the paper challenges the association to come out with even one case of threats or intimidation on any journalist in the public press by the PNDC. What is unfortunate, it says, and should be an eye-opener for all Ghanaians is that the class of people who want power handed to them are those who have contributed in no small way to the economic mess of today.

The GRAPHIC says the revelations from the Citizens Vetting Committee tell it all. Out of 250 lawyers in private practice in Accra, only 18 are regular taxpayers. In the Ashanti region, only two lawyers pay proper taxes. The simple deduction here is that these tax evaders see the revolution as giving them too little room for maneuver. They want the country to return to a state where the privileged few would escape taxes while the shop floor cleaner sweats it off out of his meager salary. They want to continue to live off the toil of the downtrodden.

The paper shares the common view that those who live in glass houses should not be first to throw stones. If all lawyers and businessmen had paid their taxes as regularly as the ordinary workers in the country, the government would have been able to (?mop) up enough revenue to provide the much needed amenities in the towns and villages. The poverty, squalor, hunger, disease, and ignorance which stare this country in the face today could have been averted if those who sat in Parliament and those learned people had been honest and sincere. This country has a [word indistinct] and it is not these critical moments which will change it. The people cannot be deceived again this time.

Papers Call for Workers Party, Discuss Budget

AB150830 Accra Domestic Service in English 0700 GMT 15 May 83

[Press review]

[Excerpt] The WEEKLY SPECTATOR comments on the new guidelines on the revolution. The paper describes these as a masterpiece which spells out the aims and objectives of the revolution in the running of the government. However, says the SPECTATOR, it fails to show the country's path of development, whether socialism or capitalism. It says this makes the document incomplete. The paper is of the view that the authors of the document should redefine some portions of the guidelines to make it what it describes as a principled document. It says Ghana is made up of socialists and capitalists and both Nkrumah and Busia fell because they failed to recognize the body politic of Ghana as partisan. Blending the Krumaists, who are the socialists, and the Busiaists, the capitalists, is disastrous. This is because immediately there is a crack in the government and the two political poles emerge.

The paper is of the opinion that in order not to repeat the mistakes of the past, a working class party should be formed. It said it is only through a working class party that both the CIA and the old-time politicians and their agents can be made quiet and stability in development ensured in the country.

NSAMANKOW on its part explains the reaction of some people to the budget. It says a section of the people are not happy with the budget and there have been wild protests. The paper is of the view that, in the absence of a people's congress where they can air their views, it is natural for the people to protest, especially when they were surprised by the budget. It, however, considers violent confrontation as not helpful. This is because there are channels for the people to air their views on the budget in a peaceful manner. It identifies the Trade Union Congress and the People's Defense Councils and the Workers Defense Council as some of the channels. In the case of students, there is the National Union of Ghana Students. NSAMANKOW agrees that the economy is sick and needs a cure. However, it points out that care must be taken on the prescriptions for the ailing economy if the nation should not be divided. The paper is therefore happy that seminars are being held to discuss the budget and all must take part. It, however, warns against acts of hooliganism under the cover of the revolution. We are engaged in the holy war, says NSAMANKOW.

IVORY COAST

President Receives Moroccan Foreign Minister

AB151341 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 15 May 83

[Text] The Moroccan minister of state for foreign affairs, M'Hamed Boucetta, was received in Yamoussoukro yesterday by President Houphouet-Boigny. Mr Boucetta has already visited Senegal and Guinea. The Moroccan diplomat's discussions with the head of state most likely centered on the SDAR problem and the upcoming OAU summit, which should take place in Addis Ababa next month. He left for Cameroon yesterday.

The Moroccan minister's African tour falls within the framework of preparation for the OAU summit. In fact, difficulties have already arisen regarding this meeting. The SDAR has announced that it will participate in the Addis Ababa meeting, despite the fact that its admission in February 1982 as the 51st OAU member is not accepted by everyone. The 19th OAU summit in Tripoli failed on two occasions last year because the participants were divided on the issues of admitting the SDAR and Chadian representation.

MALI

Visiting Gabon Minister Confirms OAU Attendance

AB161744 Bamako Domestic Service in French 1500 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] At noon today, President Moussa Traore received Emile Kassa-Mpasi, third deputy prime minister of Gabon and minister of civil service and state reform, who delivered a message from President Omar Bongo to President Moussa Traore.

The relations of friendship and cooperation which exist between Gabon and Mali were at the center of the talks that were held in the presence of Omar Coulibally, our minister of state for economy and planning.

After the meeting, the Gabonese deputy prime minister gave his impressions of the talks and confirmed his country's intention to participate in the OAU summit next month:

[Begin recording] The members of my delegation and I are happy to be here in Bamako, capital of our brother country. I was charged by the president of the Gabonese Republic, His Excellency El Haj Omar Bongo, to deliver a personal message to the president of the Malian Republic. It is difficult to see how a country which proposes a candidate for the post of OAU secretary general could absent itself from Addis Ababa during the summit meeting. [end recording]

NIGERIA

Tension Still High on Lake Chad; Clash Denied

AB161641 Paris AFP in English 1622 GMT 16 May 83

[By Francois-Xavier Harispe]

[Text] Lagos, May 16 (AFP) — Tension is still running high in Lake Chad; almost a month after clashes on some islands between Chadians and Nigerians resulted in the deaths of soldiers from both countries, sources said in the Nigerian capital today.

But a Nigerian military source denied a report in the government-controlled NEW NIGERIAN today that the fighting had continued last week.

A Nigerian source said the Army had strengthened its positions on some islands, and military helicopters were reportedly patrolling the lake through which the Chadian-Nigerian border runs.

A very reliable source said that the incidents first broke out about April 18, when clashes between troops of both countries were reported. But the absence of precise landmarks, and the Nigerian soldiers' practice of patrolling the lake's islands for several years owing to the civil war in Chad, had prevented an exact delimitation of the border, with each country claiming it has been attacked on its territory.

Various sources said that both parties had not ruled out the possibility of the incidents being a provocation, and several travellers returning from the area said that the former leader of the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Chad, Mahamat Boubacar Abderahman, could be behind the clashes.

Mr Abderahman said in a statement received by AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE that he had retaken two islands guarded by troops of the Ndjamena government.

The travellers said that Mr Abderahman had recruited about 30 people whom he had reportedly dressed in the soldiers' uniforms from both camps, and that they were regularly harassing the regular troops and causing incidents.

A Nigerian military source said that Mr Abderahman was now being sought by the Lagos authorities.

Both countries maintain that neither Chad nor Nigeria wants a conflict with the other.

The Nigerians, who have recognized the Ndjamena government, say that there would be no point in "defending (Chadian leader) Hissein Habre at the Organization of African Unity and elsewhere, if we attack him on his border."

The Chadians, who are seeking Nigerian support diplomatically and depend on their neighbor for supplies such as petrol and a great deal of food, say that it would be pointless to "attack a friend and benefactor."

Following the first series of incidents which continued until April 24, a Chadian delegation headed by the secretary of state for foreign affairs, Ahmet Korom, came to the Nigerian capital to discuss the problem with his Nigerian counterpart Bello Kirifi. The two reportedly drew up a compromise subject to the agreement of President Shehu Shagari. A diplomatic source said that the compromise provides for a return of the Nigerian troops to the positions they occupied before the clashes, as a sign of goodwill and non-aggression, and the creation of a joint commission which would examine the situation on the ground, with respect to the borders fixed by the British and French colonial powers.

The mission would enable a solution to be found in accordance with the Organization of African Unity Charter, which states that borders inherited from the colonial era are intangible.

While it is difficult to establish the number of casualties because both parties are anxious not to aggravate the situation in the eyes of public opinion, the Nigerian press has reported that the number of dead could be counted in dozens.

The Nigerian-Chadian border has been closed on the lake, and Nigeria's land border with Cameroon, the only way by road to Chad from the lake region, has also closed by Nigerian troops. The border closure has reportedly caused problems in the Chadian capital, where petrol rationing was introduced about two weeks ago. Chad is also dependent on Nigeria for spare parts and aid supplies from humanitarian organizations which are sent via Lagos port.

The Chadian Government, already hard pressed in the northern regions by ousted President Goukouni Oueddei, wants at all costs to avoid a conflict with Nigeria.

Meanwhile, the Nigerians, who already negotiated their way out of a border conflict with Cameroon two years ago, are in a hurry to begin again, particularly during an electoral period.

Reportage on Visit by ROK Chief of Staff

Shagari Stresses Military Cooperation

AB140551 Lagos Domestic Service in English 2100 GMT 13 May 83

[Text] President Shehu Shagari has stressed the need to bridge the cooperation gap between South Korea and Nigeria in various fields, including the military. He made the call today in Lagos while receiving the South Korean Army chief of staff, General Hwang Yong-si, who paid him a courtesy visit.

President Shagari expressed satisfaction at the outcome of talks held between both countries earlier this year.

The South Korean general, who is in the country on an invitation of the Nigerian Army, expressed his country's interest to cooperate with Nigeria toward restoring world peace.

Defense Cooperation Agreements Signed

AB170937 Lagos NAN in English 0832 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Lagos, May 16 NAN — The Nigerian Army and that of the Republic of Korea have concluded a defence industry cooperation agreement, the visiting Korean chief of Army Staff, General Hwang Yong-si, said in Lagos today.

General Hwang told a news conference at the end of his four-day visit to Nigeria, that an agreement had also been concluded for the exchange of military personnel between the two countries. He said that efforts would continue to be made to explore further areas of co-operation and that he was looking forward to a fruitful implementation of the agreements reached.

General Hwang said that his visit had broadened his knowledge brief his colleagues in the other arms of the Korean Armed Forces.

He called for stronger ties between the armies and the press of both countries.

General Hwang today visited the Nigerian Armed Forces resettlement centre, Oshodi, as his last engagement in the country. He was conducted round the various sections of the centre by the commander, Colonel Funmi Odunaiye.

Leaves Lagos 16 May

AB170941 Lagos Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Yesterday, the chief of staff of the South Korean Army, General Hwang Yong-si, left Lagos at the end of his 4-day official visit to Nigeria. General Hwang told newsmen at Murtala Mohammed Airport that his visit, which was at the instance of the Nigerian Army, was aimed at creating an understanding between the two armies. He said that the visit also afforded him the opportunity to hold talks on areas of cooperation and military partnership with Nigeria in the defense industry. He expressed gratitude to both the Federal Government and the Nigerian Army for what he described as a brotherly and fraternal relationship.

Shagari, UPN Leaders Discuss Campaign Peace

AB131355 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1200 GMT 13 May 83

[Text] A meeting of the Council of State is to take place in Lagos next Tuesday to discuss the issue of maintenance of peace in the country. This was announced in Lagos today by President Shehu Shagari at a meeting with an eight-man UPN [Unity Party of Nigeria] delegation led by Chief Obafemi Awolowo.

The president said that he had already prepared a memorandum to be submitted to the council. The memorandum highlighted the position of law and order in the country and the need to ensure a healthy atmosphere for peaceful political campaigns and elections. It also outlined certain incidents which had taken place in a number of states and the threat such incidents posed to the security of the nation.

President Shehu Shagari said that he was resolved to ensure that this year's elections were conducted in peace. All the leaders of the various political parties in the country will have to cooperate through dialogue to make the elections a success. The president said that one of the problems in the country was that of rumormongering and reckless allegations, 90 percent of which could not be true. He remarked that some of the leaders of the country tended to work on such allegations, adding that this could even be more dangerous when those allegations originate from the leaders themselves.

The president said that for any leader to imply that if the authorities or the police could not do their duty the people could take care of themselves amounted to inviting chaos and should not be expected from any patriotic leader. President Shagari emphasized that as leaders they should all agree to give respect to constituted authority in law enforcement agencies and cooperate with them always. He said that if on account of any allegation the police was called in, the country would be turned into a police state. President Shagari remarked that from the statements of some political leaders it would appear that they were giving cause to the public to doubt the integrity of those in authority. This, he said, was a dangerous trend which could make one question the whole system of democracy. The leaders, he said, should agree on how to conduct themselves, what to say in public and what not to say.

The UPN leader, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, in his remarks said that his party and himself seek the peace and security of the country. Violence, he said, could only tarnish one's reputation and he could not afford to take part in anything that could disrupt peace and tranquillity in the country before or after the elections. But it was his duty to see to it that other people did not by their own indiscretion or mischief-making cause trouble which could disrupt peace and tranquillity. He referred to allegations of possible rigging and the issue of 70 ballot boxes in the house of an NPN [National Party of Nigeria] leader and claimed that nothing had been done about the allegation. The UPN, he said, was not interested in violence but in free and fair elections.

Those with President Shehu Shagari at the meeting included the two special advisers on political affairs and the special adviser on petroleum and energy. The UPN delegation included three governors and the party's Senate leader.

TOGO

FRG's Franz-Josef Strauss Arrives 16 May

AB161311 Lome Domestic Service in French 1230 GMT 16 May 83

[Excerpt] One of the characteristics of the power of governments which have assumed the duty of shaping the destiny of their people lies in the visits their leaders pay to other friendly countries. Since the dawn of time we have known that visits, like gifts, promote friendship. The 4-day visit that Dr Franz-Josef Strauss, minister president of the Free State of Bavaria, FRG, began in our country today falls within this context. The great German statesman, whose visit starts today, arrived at the Lome-Tokoin International Airport at 0950 on a DC-10 aircraft. He was welcomed on arrival by General Gnassingbe Eyadema, founding chairman of the Togolese People's Rally. Following a warm embrace, a dazzling Togolese girl presented a bouquet of flowers to our illustrious guest. The two presidents then mounted a platform from which they listened to the West German and Togolese national anthems. After that, they inspected the guard of honor, mounted by a detachment of the Togolese Armed Forces, directed by Captain Kssaska.

At about 1040, the two presidents entered the prestigious building in whose apartments Gen Gnassingbe Eyadema entertained his distinguished guest. After this, a first round of talks brought the two heads of state together. The talks were later extended to their respective delegations. The ambassador of Togo to Bonn and his West German counterpart to Togo also participated in these talks.

UPPER VOLTA

Ouedraogo Moves Against 'Divergence' in CSP

Announces Dismissals 17 May

AB171350 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1300 GMT 17 May 83

[Statement by Upper Voltan Head of State Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo on 17 May concerning events within the People's Salvation Council — recorded]

[Text] In its proclamation of 7 November 1982, the People's Salvation Council [CSP] set as its objective, among other things, the restoration of true democracy and real social justice, the reorganization of the Army and of the state machinery. Regarding this last objective, it is apparent that a well-structured state machinery cannot be achieved without the restoration of the state's credibility and authority, both internally and externally.

For some time now, the CSP has been characterized by divergence within the council. This threatens to lead to the formation of opposing factions which can dangerously undermine the authority of the state.

Our objective, several times proclaimed, is to return a sense of confidence to the people of Upper Volta so that they can freely establish their own internal institutions within a period of 2 years without partisan squabbles or imposed ideological choices. The CSP has therefore decided to dismiss all those who seek to make the council deviate from its initial path, either through irresponsible and demagogic activities, behavior, or statements.

The People's Salvation Army remains firmly attached to its objectives and is working for a greater unity through its program of action. We will respect and keep our commitments.

The People's Salvation Army calls on the people in our villages and towns, our Armed Forces — soldiers and paramilitary personnel — to be calm and vigilant.

Prime Minister Sankara Arrested

AB171442 Paris AFP in French 1435 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Ouagadougou, 17 May (AFP) — It was learned on Tuesday that Upper Voltan Prime Minister Captain Thomas Sankara was arrested on Monday morning at dawn by order of the People's Salvation Council [CSP], which has ruled the country since 7 November 1982.

In a statement broadcast by radio, Upper Voltan Head of State Major Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo affirmed that "differences have been cropping up for some time now within the CSP, dangerously jeopardizing the state's authority."

Maj Ouedraogo, who did not indicate the identities or the number of persons arrested along with the prime minister, called on the population and on the military and paramilitary forces to remain "calm and vigilant."

Troops Deployed, Airport Closed

AB171426 Paris AFP in English 1418 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Niamey, May 17 (AFP) — Upper Volta's military ruler Major Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo today announced that he was purging the People's Salvation Council (CSP) of "irresponsible" elements.

Maj. Ouedraogo's brief statement over national radio coincided with rumors in neighbouring Niger that Upper Voltan Prime Minister Thomas Sankara, who was considered the most radical member of the government formed after a military coup last November, had been ousted.

Reliable sources in Niamey said that troops were out on the streets of Ouagadougou, the Upper Voltan capital, and that the international airport there had been closed.

Maj. Ouedraogo, an army surgeon, said that the CSP had decided to "remove from its midst all those trying to make it leave its original path through behaviour, statements and actions which are as demagogic as they are irresponsible."

The head of state did not identity those being thrown out of the council.

He said that "for some time differences have become apparent within the CSP and these were in danger of becoming focused in clans, which would have seriously undermined the authority of the state."

The CSP was set up after the November 7 overthrow of Colonel Saye Zerbo's Military Recovery Committee for National Progress (CMRPN).

Maj. Ouedraogo was the first figure to emerge among the new military leadership following the coup, but Captain Sankara, a popular paratroop officer who was detained by Colonel Zerbo, was generally believed to have known about the plot while it was in the making.

Changes in Curfew Declared

AB171858 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 1854 GMT 17 May 83

[Press communique issued by Upper Voltan Head of State Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo on 17 May in Ouagadougou]

[Text] In view of the present circumstances, the curfew which was enforced throughout the national territory from 0100 to 0500 has been extended, and will now be in force from 2000 to 0500, beginning today, Tuesday, 17 May 1983.

[Signed] Major Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo.

Ouedraogo Receives France's Penne 17 May

AB172137 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French
2000 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] French Presidential Adviser on African Affairs Guy Penne was received this afternoon by the head of state, Major Jean-Baptiste Ouedraogo. Mr Penne arrived in our capital last night. This morning, he held talks with Adam Fofana, minister of information, posts and telecommunications, who was acting for the minister of foreign affairs and cooperation. Concerning the audience this afternoon, its purpose was to deliver an invitation to the CSP [People's Salvation Council] chairman to pay an official working visit to France in the near future. Let us listen to Mr Penne after this audience:

[Begin recording] [Penne] I was charged with delivering a message from the president of the French Republic to the head of state. This is what I have done. All I know is that it is a message of friendship. It also concerns the invitation to your head of state to come to France on an official working visit in the near future. In a few days your head of state will tell you (?the date) he has chosen. We shall be very happy to receive him in Paris.

[Unidentified reporter] Just a few days ago, Christian Nucci, who is the French minister charged with cooperation and development, was received by the head of state. Today, it is your turn. What is the reason for this French diplomatic shuttle to Upper Volta?

[Penne] As you know, I have visited Upper Volta several times before. I have come about five times already and have met Maj Ouedraogo. Today, I have returned after the visit by Mr Nucci. His visit was a working one, in solidarity and friendship, and I believe that he accomplished his objectives.

On this visit, we had a lengthy discussion with the minister of information today, and several other ministers joined the talks, in particular during lunch. For 1983, France will grant aid worth 21 billion CFA francs subject to no political conditions. This aid is granted as a mark of solidarity, in accord with statements made by the president of the republic in Cancun and at several other world conferences, and in order to advance cooperation and development. This gesture is also being made within the framework of the traditional friendship between Upper Volta and France.

I have not come to check the work done by Mr Nucci. My present job is that of special adviser to the president of the republic, that is, to maintain a link between the head of state of Upper Volta, as well as the heads of state of other countries, and the president of the French Republic. That is the purpose of my visit. Maj Ouedraogo was satisfied with the work done by Mr Nucci. I am satisfied with the meetings I held with your ministers and your head of state. [end recording]

ANGOLA

President dos Santos Pays Working Visit to USSR

Moscow Media Report Visit

For Moscow media reportage on the visit to the USSR by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, see the Sub-Sahara Africa section of the 16 May Soviet Union DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Luanda Reports Dos Santos Talks

MB171030 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party and president of the People's Repulic of Angola, began a friendly working visit to the Soviet Union today at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the USSR Government.

The first meeting between the Angolan president and Yuriy Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, was held today at the Grand Kremlin Palace in Moscow. A number of urgent issues related to the international situation, particularly the situation in the southern part of the African Continent, as well as questions related to Angolan-Soviet bilateral relations were examined during the meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of friendship and mutual understanding.

While analyzing the international situation, both parties expressed their concern at the continuing world tension and the dangerous situation that has been created in various regions as a result of the aggressive and adventurous policy of the imperialist forces headed by the United States. Both parties stressed the need to (?further) promote the struggle of all progressive and peace-loving forces to ease the threat of war, end the arms race, and strengthen peace and security in the world.

Referring to the situation in southern Africa, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Yuriy Andropov stressed the need for an end to South Africa's undeclared war against the People's Republic of Angola and the withdrawal of the racist regime's troops from its territory, as well as an end to the support given to the puppet anti-Angolan organizations and an end to the subversive activities conducted by South Africa against the other frontline states.

Both parties strongly condemned the attempts by the United States and its Western allies to (?delay) the granting of independence to Namibia by artificially linking the problem with the unrelated question of the Cuban presence in Angola. Angola and the Soviet Union also spoke out for an immediate end to the illegal occupation of Namibia by the Pretoria racists and for the implementation, without further delay, of the UN resolutions on the country's independence, including UN Resolution 435.

On this occasion, Comrade Jose Eduardo dos Santos expressed his profound gratitude to the Soviet Union and other socialist states for their internationalist assistance in strengthening the economy and the defensive capability of Angola, which is currently resisting foreign aggression.

Yuriy Andropov expressed his country's readiness to continue providing aid to the People's Republic of Angola for the defense of its sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity.

Finally, the two leaders expressed their satisfaction with the continued strengthening of the bilateral friendship and cooperation between Angola and the Soviet Union, which are firmly based on the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation, and declared themselves in favor of the future development of relations and contacts in all fields. They confirmed their mutual wish to maintain an exchange of experience between the CPSU and the MPLA-Labor Party, an exchange which can only enrich both parties.

After the meeting, a ceremony was held in the Kremlin during which Angolan-Soviet documents were signed. An agreement on cooperation between the CPSU and the MPLA-Labor Party was signed by Yuriy Andropov, CPSU general secretary, and by Jose Eduardo dos Santos, chairman of the MPLA-Labor Party. A plan for interparty relations was also signed by Boris Ponomarev, secretary of the Central Committee and candidate member of the CPSU Politburo, and by Afonso van Dunem Mbinda, secretary of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee for foreign relations. A protocol on cultural and scientific cooperation between the two countries for the 1983-1984 period was also signed. The document was signed by Andrey Gromyko, member of the CPSU Politburo and Soviet minister of foreign affairs, and by Paulo Jorge, member of the MPLA-Labor Party Central Committee and Angolan minister of foreign affairs.

The supreme leader of the party and nation was honored tonight at the Grand Kremlin Palace with a state banquet given by the CPSU Central Committee, the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet, and the Soviet Government. Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and Nikolay Tikhonov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, exchanged speeches which were followed with great attention and saluted by prolonged applause.

According to the schedule which the Angolan head of state is following on this friendly working visit to the Soviet Union, tomorrow will be marked by a number of interviews and talks with high-ranking officials of the Soviet political scene. Thus, after visiting the Vladimir Ilich Lenin Mausoleum and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where he will lay wreaths, Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos will meet with Andrey Gromyko, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of foreign affairs; Dmitriy Ustinov, minister of defense; and Boris Ponomarev, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. All these meetings will take place in Moscow.

The visit by the Angolan head of state to the Soviet Union is of particular importance since, as he recently told Soviet journalists in Luanda, although our relations are developing well, not all possiblities have been explored. Angola, an underdeveloped country, has great possibilities — potential — but it lacks the technology and the cadres required for the rational use of all its resources. Jose Eduardo dos Santos also told Soviet journalists in Luanda that with mutually advantageous cooperation established with the Soviet Union, we could find more rapid and adequate means to face the serious problems which we inherited from colonialism and which still affect our people.

It will be recalled that the Angolan presidential delegation includes Afonso van Dunem, secretary of the party Central Committee for foreign relations; Paulo Jorge, minister of foreign affairs; Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, minister of defense; Lopo do Nascimento, minister of planning; Pedro de Castro van Dunem Loi, minister of energy and petroleum; Augusto Teixeira de Matos, minister of finance; Mario Alfredo da Fonseca, deputy bank governor; Pascal Luvualu, general secretary of the National Union of Angolan Workers, and high-ranking officers of the Armed Forces and high-ranking officials from the office of the president of the republic.

It must be pointed out that before his arrival in Moscow today, President Jose Eduardo dos Santos made a brief stop in Budapest, the capital of Hungary, where he was greeted by members of the Hungarian party and Presidential Council, with whom he met for about 1 hour.

Dos Santos Meets Gromyko

MB171647 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1200 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] For a report on the visit by the president of the MPLA-Labor Party and the People's Republic of Angola to the USSR, from Moscow, here are our special reporters:

[Begin recording] From Moscow, this is the team of National Radio of Angola reporters accompanying Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos on an official and friendly visit to the USSR.

The Angolan people, the MPLA-Labor Party, and the Government of the People's Republic of Angola, represented by their supreme leader, Comrade President Jose Eduardo dos Santos, this morning paid heartfelt homage to Vladimir Ilich Lenin, a genius and the successor in the cause of Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, by laying a wreath at his mausoleum at the Kremlin. At the mausoleum, the Angolan presidential delegation was able to view the immortal figure of the founder of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and, around it, the busts of the main leaders of the Soviet Revolution, symbolizing the foundation of the struggle of liberation of the Russian and international proletariat.

This ceremony was followed by the laying of a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, as homage to all the glorious fighters who died for the cause of peace, progress, and liberty.

As part of the itinerary of his visit to the first socialist state, the Angolan head of state also held talks this morning with Andrey Gromyko, foreign minister and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers, Dimitriy Ustinov, the defense minister, and Boris Ponomarev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Secretariat, at a [words indistinct], also attended by Angola's Comrades Pedro Maria Tonha Pedale, the defense minister, Pascual Luvualu, a member of the Political Bureau, Afonso van Dunem Mbinda, secretary of the Central Committee for foreign relations, and Paulo Jorge, foreign minister.

[Words indistinct], Comrade Lopo do Nascimento, the minister of planning, held a meeting with Nikolay Baybakov, chairman of the USSR State Planning Committee, with whom he discussed the program for the development of economic cooperation between the two states in light of the agreements signed in Moscow yesterday. The meeting, which covered practical measures for the future development of cooperation between the USSR and Angola, was attended by the [word indistinct] members of the presidential delegation.

This evening, the Angolan head of state is expected to visit our embassy in Moscow, where he will most likely hold a meeting with our diplomatic representatives.

Tomorrow will be devoted to a visit to the capital of the Ukranian Soviet Socialist Republic, Kiyev, for a series of talks with local officials, visits to famous places and monuments in the city, and, most likely, a visit to a [word indistinct]. From Moscow, this is the reporting team of the National Radio of Angola.

Xuan Thuy Talks With Officials Reported

AB171259 Luanda ANGOP in French 1141 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Luanda, 17 May (AFP) — Xuan Thuy, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Vietnam, held talks yesterday morning with Mendes de Carvalho [as received], the Angolan health minister. During the meeting, the two sides discussed issues of bilateral interest.

Continuing his visit to Angola, the Vietnamese leader later had talks with Augusto Lopes Teixeira, the minister of education.

It should be recalled that Xuan Thuy has been in Angola since last Friday at the head of an important delegation from his country.

UNITA Says Government Forces Launch Offensive

AB171612 Paris AFP in French 1510 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Lisbon, 17 May (AFP) — The Angolan forces and the "Cuban mercenaries" have launched a "major offensive" against the positions of the Angolan rebel movement UNITA in Moxico Province (center east), Jonas Savimbi's movement announced in Lisbon on Tuesday.

In a communique received by AFP, UNITA indicated that 12 MIG-21 and MIG-17 aircraft, as well as 12 helicopters, were used in the operation whose objective was the recapture of the villages of Munhango, Tempue, Cangonga, and Gago Coutinho in Moxico Province. According to the communique, the Angolan forces are also assisted by 3,000 Cubans and by Soviet-made T-54 armored vehicles.

In addition, UNITA announced that last Saturday it shot down an Antonov-26 aircraft and another aircraft, and burned an Alouette helicopter. Four government troops were captured and five others gave themselves up to the guerillas, according to the communique, which added that UNITA suffered two dead, including a warrant officer.

BOTSWANA

President Meets PRC Mission, Comments on Ties

MB161842 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] The president, Dr Masire, today expressed hope that with the help Botswana was getting from China in the fields of agriculture and transportation, the country would ultimately be self-sufficient in food production. Dr Masire was speaking this morning to a Chinese delegation which had paid a courtesy call on him. The six-man Chinese goodwill mission, which arrived in the country last Wednesday, is headed by the deputy head of the Chinese International Liaison Department of the central party, Mr Jiang Guanghua.

The president remarked on the good relations existing between the two countries and recalled that when the late president, Sir Seretse Khama, visited China, he managed to secure a loan.

On southern Africa, Dr Masire said the problems of Namibia and South Africa were not yet settled, but added that the attainment of independence by Zimbabwe was an achievement for the entire continent.

On his part, the leader of the Chinese delegation, Mr Jiang Guanghua, said the visit by the president — then vice president — to China in 1980 opened a new chapter in the friendly relations between the ruling parties of the two countries, the two governments, and the people of the two nations. Mr Jiang Guanghua said Botswana and China belong to the Third World, they had the same historical background, and have the same intimate problems. He said that the two countries must support each other politically because they both abhorred imperialism, colonialism, and racialism.

The Chinese delegation has visited a number of places, including the Botswana Meat Commission and the Jwaneng Diamond Mines. The delegation also paid a courtesy call on the vice president and minister of finance and development planning, Mr Peter Musi, and the minister of local government and lands, Mr Englishman Kgabo, on behalf of the secretary general of the Botswana Democratic Party, Mr (Daniel Tswelagodu).

300 Zimbabwean, Other Aliens Rounded Up

MB161845 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] The chief immigration officer, Mr (Sylvester Moapadi), has announced that more than 300 aliens have been rounded up during the past 2 weeks in an immigration exercise. The aliens, most of them Zimbabweans, were rounded up in Lobatse, Gaborone, and Juaneng. Others are a few South Africans and Mozambicans. Most of them were found in firms working or looking for jobs.

Mr (Moapadi) said the exercise was a routine process carried out from time to time as soon as the department had reason to believe that there were many aliens living illegally in the country. Mr (Moapadi) said that the problem of aliens had been there for some time and that it was created by the colonial masters when they divided villages. The erection of the borderline separated families, thus making it difficult for them to visit one another.

The chief immigration officer refuted foreign media reports that immigration officials were carrying out a house-to-house search for aliens believed to be Zimbabweans. He also appealed to traditional leaders to cooperate with immigration personnel and to report any foreigner staying in the country illegally. He added that traditional leaders had the power to report foreigners to immigration officials, and if the foreigners refused to leave, they could be prosecuted.

MALAWI

President To Assume All Portfolios 18 May

MB180734 Blantyre Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] His Excellency the Life President Ngwazi Dr Kamuzu Banda had directed that Parliament be dissolved from tomorrow, 18 May. This was announced in Zomba this morning by the speaker of the National Assembly, Mr Nelson Khonje, when Parliament met for a day's meeting. Mr Khonje also said all Cabinet ministers cease to hold office from tomorrow and that, as a result, all accepted portfolios will revert to the life president in his capacity as head of state and government.

The speaker explained that the result of this is that the life president will govern the country and, therefore, all government business requiring presidential decisions should be directed to the life president through his office in Lilongwe.

Meanwhile, our parliamentary correspondent reports from Zomba that the House today upheld a report by the Electoral Commission on the demarcation of constituencies. The districts affected are Mzimba, Mkhata Bay, Kasungu, (?Nchisi), Dowa, (?Nezda), Ncheu, Mangoche, Machinga, Zomba, Thyolo, and Mulanje. In all these districts, one more constituency has been added, while Lilongwe will have two more constituencies. [Word indistinct] later the House debated three bills, including one aimed at amending the Constitution to take into account the increase in constituencies. The motion and the bills were passed.

His excellency the life president has directed that district conferences should give nominations of possible candidates to stand on the party ticket in the forthcoming general elections and be held on Saturday this week, 21 May. In a press release, a spokesman of the Malawi Congress Party national headquarters in Lilongwe said teams from the national headquarters of the party will conduct these conferences.

The spokesman said the delegates are advised to choose men and women of good reputation and behavior loyal to the party and who must never have been detained, expelled, or suspended from the party. People who have been imprisoned for any criminal offenses should not be proposed. In addition, delegates should choose candidates who have a good enough knowledge of English to participate actively in parliamentary deliberations. The spokesman emphasized that in considering candidates, delegates should not restrict themselves to people who are active party officials. He pointed out that there are many people, mainly civil servants or professional men and women, who are good and loyal to the party who could also be considered to stand on the party ticket.

The spokesman further reminded the people of the life president's wish that this year's parliamentary general election should be absolutely free and fair and that anyone who canvasses would automatically be disqualified. He also warned that anyone — in particular, incumbent party officials — interfering with the elections would be dealt with severely.

The spokesman said the delegates who would lead the conferences, which will start at 0900 in the morning, are all members of the district committees of the party, League of Malawi Women, and League of Malawi Youth; chairmen, secretaries, and treasurers of the area committees of the party, League of Malawi Women, and League of Malawi Youth; chairmen of district councils and all councillors in the districts; mayors and all Malawian councillors of municipalities and cities, and chiefs and subchiefs.

The Malawi Congress Party election headquarters is at the party suboffice at Chichiri Trade Fair Grounds in Blantyre, and their telephone numbers are Blantyre 632122 and 632449.

MAURITIUS

Prime Minister, Officials Leave for PRC

AB171206 Paris AFP in French 1042 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Port-Louis, 17 May (AFP) — Mauritian Prime Minister Aneerood Jugnauth left Port-Louis on Tuesday for the People's Republic of China on an official visit at the invitation of the Beijing government. Mr Jugnauth will stop over in Bombay and in Hong Kong before arriving in Guangzhou, in the south of the country.

The Mauritian prime minister is leading an important delegation, including Minister of Foreign Affairs Anil Gayan and Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources Kishore Deerpalsingh, as well as high officials of various ministries.

Attendance at 6-11 June OAU Summit Confirmed

AB171525 Paris AFP in French 1312 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Port Louis, 17 May (AFP) — Mauritius will be represented at the upcoming 19th OAU summit in Addis Ababa from 6 to 11 June 1983 by Minister of External Affairs Anil Gayan, it was learned on Tuesday.

Mr Gayan explained to the local press that his presence in the Ethiopian capital is prompted by the fact that "it would be too dangerous to abandon Africa at such a moment."

The problems of the Western Sahara and Chad caused the failure of the previous two attempts to hold a summit in Tripoli (Libya) in August and in November of 1982.

MOZAMBIQUE

Sofala Asked for Greater Effort, New Attitude

MB171659 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 0430 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] The Secretariat of the Frelimo Party Provincial Committee in Sofala issued a statement the day before yesterday in which it declared that the fight against famine, armed and unarmed banditry, unemployment, and vagrancy are essential and priority fronts in the present stage of the fight outlined by the recently-held Fourth Frelimo Congress. Such a fight demands a greater effort and a new attitude toward the problems we still face in order to end famine, unemployment, parasitism, and vagrancy, and to clear the fields in order to sow food in every possible place.

The exhortation by the Secretariat of the Frelimo Party Provincial Committee, which was addressed to the population of Sofala, and to the residents of Beira in particular, says that all those who provide shelter for people who do not work, regardless of whether these people have particular skills, must act so these people present themselves at the headquarters of the marshaling groups in the respective suburbs. The document adds that we cannot allow the armed bandits to steal the food we produce: our corn, our chickens, and our ducks, and goats that we breed with so much effort and sacrifice.

The exhortation of the Secretariat of the Frelimo Party Provincial Committee in Sofala also says that we will not permit the black marketeer to live among us. He and the armed bandits want to starve us to death.

NAMIBIA

Politician Criticizes Exclusion From Conference

MB161729 Johannesburg Domestic Service in Afrikaans 1400 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] The leader of the SWAPO-Democrats, Mr Shipanga, says his expulsion from the recent Paris Conference on South-West Africa was a violation of the UN Charter on Human Rights. The conference was organized by the UN Council on Namibia.

Mr Shipanga said in Windhoek on his return from Western Europe that, although he was officially expelled by the UN high commissioner for Namibia, Mr (Mishra), he was in fact expelled at the insistence of SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma. Mr Shipanga said that, contrary to reports, no inhabitant of South-West Africa was present at the conference. Mr Nujoma and his supporters were accredited as observers.

SOUTH AFRICA

Johannesburg on U.S. Policy Toward S. Africa

MB171802 Johannesburg International Service in English 1500 GMT 17 May 83

[Station commentary: "Constructive Engagement"]

[Text] Over the past 2 and 1/2 years the term constructive engagement has been increasingly confined to the relationship between South Africa and the United States. In actual fact it is the base of American relations with Southern Africa as a whole, and it is this subcontinental involvement which poses the true threat to American aspirations in the region.

In endorsing constructive engagement with South Africa in his first policy statement on the subject, President Reagan said the United States should be helpful rather than obstructionist in respect of the reforms taking place in the country. But his stand was part of a broader strategy for Southern Africa, based on the need to protect American interests in a region under threat from Soviet expansionism.

This protection aspect now takes on added significance for the American leader as he faces the battle for reelection. Although foreign policy issues are unlikely to sway the electorate towards President Reagan, failure on any such issue will definitely lose him votes. And failure to protect American interests in Southern Africa from Soviet expansionism would fall into this category. Hence the intense American effort towards regional stability, closer relations with the nations of Southern Africa, and South African movement towards government by consent without laying down actual blueprints.

As far as South Africa is concerned, the process of evolution is well underway. On the one hand Parliament is now debating the new Constitution Bill which will draw the Coloreds and Asians of the country into the parliamentary system. On the other, top-level negotiations are continuing with the black leaders on a new dispensation for the black peoples of South Africa.

It is in other parts of Southern Africa that the danger lies. Most significant of these is Angola, which allows SWAPO to use the country as a springboard for its terrorist campaign against the people of South-West Africa, and has refused to consider linking a South-West African settlement with a Cuban withdrawal from Angola. Several other Southern African countries are contributing to destabilization in one way or another.

Quite apart from the internal destabilization which exists in most of these countries, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Zambia are all either active or passive supporters of the African National Congress and the Pan African Congress terrorists in their efforts to destabilize South Africa.

It is the threat of these actions which pose the real danger which would tip the balance of American constructive engagement in Southern Africa.

Minister on Constitutional Position of Blacks

MB161741 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] The minister of constitutional development and planning, Mr Huenis, says the fact that blacks are not included in the Constitution Bill does not mean that they are excluded from the constitutional and other reform processes.

Introducing the second reading debate of the South Africa Constitution Bill in the assembly, Mr Huenis said a large variety of acts dealt with the political postion and future of black population groups. Their position, however, had not been finalized and would not be finalized without consultation and intensive investigations. Mr Huenis said the government accepted the fact that reform and adjustment was also necessary in this field. Earlier this year the government established a body with the task of initiating preparatory work for further development in various areas.

Mr Huenis said the bill constituted a serious and bona fide endeavor by the government to make progress on the road towards the realization of general constitutional objectives for whites, Coloreds, and Indians. The bill, however, did not provide a total answer for all time to come, nor did it provide a total answer for all the constitutional problems.

On black constitutional development, the minister said the government had no intention of departing from the course towards different and separate structures for the black nations. On the other hand, it was government policy that whites, Coloreds and Indians should be accomodated in the same constitutional framework.

Navy Chief Begins 9-day Visit in Chile

MB171054 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] The chief of the Navy, Vice Admiral Putter, has arrived in Chile for a 9-day Visit. Admiral Putter was met at Santiago Airport by his Chilean counterpart, Admiral Jose Merino Castro. On Saturday Adm Putter will take part in naval glory observances in Valparaiso, 140 km northwest of Santiago. The ceremony marks a Chilean-Peruvian naval battle 104 years ago.

According to the semi-official Chilean news agency ORBE, Adm Putter will receive the Grand Military Merit Star, one of Chile's highest decorations, from Adm Merino on Thursday.

Armscor Official Comments on Test Center, Tanks

MB151210 Johannesburg THE STAR in English 13 May 83 p 3

[By Pretoria correspondent]

[Text] Armscor would "fight dirty" if necessary for outside technology to help design weapons for South Africa's protection, said Mr Fred Bell, executive general manager, yesterday. "We are not involved in Friday afternoon wargames which we can pack up for the weekend — it is the real thing we are involved in," he told reporters and guests at Armscor's Vehicle Test Centre at Elandsfontein near Pretoria.

The wraps came off the centre for the first time yesterday though it has been in operation since 1978.

The arms embargo against South Africa was very real and the people who monitored it were highly efficient, said Mr Bell. "So if what we are fighting for is worth it, then we will fight dirty if need be."

Though the centre cost more than R10 million, the consensus of senior officials present was that this amount had already been saved by its manufacture of better military vehicles for the Defence Force.

Officials also stressed that South Africa was far less vulnerable than ever before to "blackmail" from the outside world in respect of arms.

South Africa's main armour, the Olifant tank which was a revamped and much modified Centurion MK-7, was good enough and could be updated until the 1990's. After that Armscor would have to provide an indigenous replacement.

The Ratel, which has been launched with some success on the international market, is the only combat-proven armoured personnel carrier in the world today. Armscor experts are, however, looking at a new generation of vehicle in this field with improved protection, firepower and mobility.

Locally designed and manufactured anti-landmine vehicles were designed and built to withstand a certain number of mines and others could cope with different combinations of mines laid by terrorists. These vehicles were improved to accommodate the evolution of minelaying techniques.

Throughout Armscor, and especially in the vehicle field, rationalisation and standardisation of equipment and parts were having notable success.

On a trip round the sprawling "open air laboratory" with its many features, an insight was given into the work carried out daily to make military vehicles safer and more efficient.

Six Arrested in Connection With Sabotage Acts

MB131446 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1026 GMT 13 May 83

[Text] Pretoria, May 13, SAPA — Police had arrested five black men and a black woman in connection with terrorist attacks in the eastern cape over the past three years, the commissioner of police, General Mike Geldenhuys, said in Pretoria today.

Police had also uncovered a variety of arms, explosives and timing devices, all of Russian origin, he said.

The arrests, since Tuesday this week, followed an intensive and ongoing investigation by police, he added.

The six people are being held for questioning in connection with a number of sabotage acts carried out in the Port Elizabeth area. These include: An explosion in the Constantia Shopping Centre in Port Elizabeth; the planting of another home-made bomb in the centre on May 29, 1982; the sabotage of the railway line at Swartkops near Port Elizabeth on April 6, 1982; an explosion in the community council offices at New Brighton on January 26 this year, in which an ANC terrorist was killed.

The police investigation is continuing.

Police Defuse Homemade Bomb Under Durban Bridge

MB171330 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1200 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] Police say they defused a bomb in Durban last week. Police Commissioner Mike Guldenhuys says police defused a homemade bomb found under a bridge in Durban last week. Geldenhuys says experts defused the bomb without injury to anyone or damage to property. A statement said no arrests have been made, and police are investigating the origin of the bomb.

SWAZILAND

S.Africa Police Said To Make Illegal Raids

MB170904 Mbabane THE TIMES Of SWAZILAND in English 17 May 83 pp 1,7

[By Mashumi Twala]

[Excerpt] The woman on trial on charges of dealing in drugs yesterday said in court that South African police conduct illegal raids on homes in Swaziland. Miss Tigezile Dlamini said the South Africans raided these homes without the knowledge of the local police force.

She claimed a number of people have been arrested by South African police deep inside Swaziland and taken to South Africa illegally.

An inspector from Mbabane police station admitted that he had personally stumbled on a group of white detectives from the South African police investigating a case without permission from the Swaziland police authorities. He said he was investigating a case when he met them and they told him that they were looking for a truck which had been stolen in the republic.

"After we had helped them find the truck we discovered that they did not have a permit to carry out investigations here. Only the commissioner of police or his deputy issue such permits," Inspector Phineas Dlamini said.

ZAMBIA

Mundia in Paris Following African Bank Meeting

MB130945 Lusaka Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 12 May 83

[Text] The prime minister, Nalumino Mundia, arrived in Paris today to attend the Paris Club. Mr Mundia, who is also minister of finance, flew from Nairobi, where he attended the annual general meeting of the African Development Bank [ADB], and he was met at the airport by members of the Zambian Embassy in Paris.

At the ADB meeting Mr Mundia called on African countries to set up a currency unit of their own to facilitate trade among them along the same lines as the European currency. He also urged African countries to implement the inter-African trade which has for long remained an agenda item for academic authorization. [sentence as heard] At the Paris Club this week, Zambia will try to have its debts rescheduled.

ZIMBABWE

Mugabe To Leave for Visit to East Europe

MB171140 Harare Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 17 May 83

[Text] The prime minister, Comrade Robert Mugabe, will leave Harare this evening to begin a three-nation official visit to the Hungarian People's Republic, the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic, and the German Democratic Republic. He will be accompanied by his wife, Comrade Sally Mugabe; the minister of foreign affairs, Comrade Witness Mangwende; the minister of state in the prime minister's office responsible for security, Comrade Emmerson Munangagwa; the minister of manpower planning and development, Comrade Frederick Shava; the minister of housing, Comrade Simbarashe Mubengegwe; and other senior officials.

The minister of trade and commerce, Comrade Richard Hove, who is already abroad, will join the prime minister's delegation in Budapest.

Minister Criticizes Botswana on Refugees

AB160847 Paris AFP in English 0733 GMT 16 May 83

[Text] Harare, May 16 (AFP) — A government minister today renewed Zimbabwean criticism of neighboring Botswana for its acceptance of Zimbabwean refugees, many of whom Harare says are armed dissidents fighting against Prime Minister Robert Mugabe. Information Minister Nathan Shamuyarira said in an interview with the government-controlled HERALD newspaper that he was "disappointed and distressed" that Botswana allows Zimbabweans to cross the border and remain without proper documentation. He said he wished Botswana would follow the example of Zambia, which arrested such people and handed them over to Zimbabwean police.

Several thousand Zimbabweans have left the southwestern Matabeleland region for Botswana in the past six months, and the flow has increased since the Army moved into the region in January in a drive against dissidents and their supporters during which up to 2,000 civilians were reportedly killed.

While the Army repression appears to have eased off considerably in the past six weeks, Zimbabweans are still crossing into Botswana. Most of the refugees are housed in the Dukwe camp about 120 kms (75 miles) inside Botswana.

According to reporters who have visited the camp, the Zimbabweans are being organized by officials of Joshua Nkomo's opposition ZAPU Party.

Some Zimbabwean officials have charged that Botswana is allowing ZAPU rebels to train inside its territory for raids into Zimbabwe, but Gaborone denies this. The Botswana Government says it cannot deny refuge to bona fide refugees — which also include several thousand South African blacks who have fled the white-minority-ruled state — but has promised to try to control the movements of the people in Dukwe.

A top-level Zimbabwean security delegation visited Gaborone in mid-April to discuss the problem, following an earlier visit here by Botswana Foreign Minister Archie Mogwe.

Mr Shamuyarira's public complaint today was seen as significant in that it was he who, two months ago, took issue with a HERALD front-page editorial claiming Botswana had effectively declared war on Zimbabwe by its refugee policy and by allowing Mr Nkomo to flee there in early March without a passport. The opposition leader has since gone on to Britain.

At the time, Mr Shamuyarira said the issue should be handled through private, government-to-government contacts.

In his interview, the Zimbabwe information minister also asserted that the security situation in Matabeleland had "improved enormously" and that the minority Ndebele people of the region, [words indistinct] Nkomo followers, [words indistinct] the central government.

Mr Mugabe made a conciliatory speaking tour at the weekend to the Tsholotsho and Lupane areas of Matabeleland, scenes of heavy dissident activity and fierce Army repression earlier in the year.